



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-055
Wednesday
24 March 1993

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Reportage on Mercosur Meeting in Brasilia

Paraguay-Argentina Dispute Viewed

PY1903195993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0027 GMT
19 Mar 93

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Mar (EFE)—A Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman today said that the Brazilian Government does not fear Paraguay's withdrawal from the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) as result of discrepancies with Argentina over an increase in the statistical tax on imports.

The spokesman said that the Paraguayan threat to withdraw from the regional economic bloc, which groups 51 percent of the Latin American Gross Domestic Product, is "a temporary position."

"In the medium and long term, Mercosur will benefit everyone because it will expand the consumer market," he added.

The spokesman said that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry considers these pressures as characteristic of an integration process, generating isolated resistance in some productive sectors of the four countries.

In October, the Argentine Government raised from 3 to 10 percent its statistical tax on imports in order to stop an "invasion" of Brazilian products, but the measure mainly affected Paraguayan products.

There is no evidence that Brazilian exports to Argentina have decreased lately.

A few hours before implementing the legislation, Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo told Brazilian officials in Brasilia that the measure, which would be temporary, would help consolidate the Argentine economic program.

Argentine businessmen pressured their government to restrict the importation of Brazilian products which they believe are subsidized.

The Brazilian trade surplus with Argentina in 1992 was \$1.5 billion.

During a special meeting in Montevideo last week of the Common Market Group, an executive organization of the Mercosur, Argentina promised Paraguay that it would study lowering its statistical tax to 3 percent and to have an answer ready for next 20 April.

Mercosur, which Bolivia wishes to join, must become a free trade zone by 1 January 1995.

Brazilian Official Calls For Solution

PY2003022793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1634 GMT
19 Mar 93

[Text] Brasilia, 19 Mar (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso called today for a

negotiated solution within the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) to overcome the differences between Paraguay and Argentina.

"We have to take it easy and not predict a catastrophe," Cardoso said in reference to the threat made by the Paraguayan Government to withdraw from the economic bloc if Argentina does not lower the 10 percent statistics tax to 3 percent.

According to Cardoso, the Paraguayan Government has frequently confirmed its interest in remaining in Mercosur, which is a region that will become a free trade zone as of 1 January 1995.

Cardoso said: In case of a withdrawal, Paraguay "will become isolated in South America and that will only hurt that country. The Paraguayan Government will have enough vision to understand that this is not the solution."

The Brazilian Government does not fear that Paraguay will abandon Mercosur because it believes isolated resistance among productive sectors is part of the integration process and because in the medium and long term the four countries that make up the bloc (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) will get the benefits of integration.

With the increase in the statistics tax last October, Argentina was seeking to stop the "invasion" of Brazilian products into its market but the tax affected its neighbor, Paraguay, which stopped exporting goods worth \$45 million.

Paraguayan Ambassador to Brazil Luis Ramirez Boettner said that due to the statistics tax, Paraguayan exports to Argentina fell 10 percent, especially goods such as meat, textiles, fruits, and handicrafts.

Uruguay was exempted from the Argentine measure by a bilateral agreement on foreign trade.

The main target of the Argentine measure was Brazilian products, which were not affected, but Brazil was able to have a trade surplus of \$1.5 billion last year.

Businessman Claudio Vaz, president of the Brazilian Union of Auto Spare Parts, said: "Brazilian exports are being hurt by Argentine bureaucracy and by the delay in the liberation of bills of lading but not by the statistics tax."

Raul Casariego, coordinator of the Brazilian-Paraguayan Chamber of Commerce, complained that Mercosur has been slow in discussing the Paraguayan claim.

Meeting Ends; Agreement Signed

PY2003004093 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in
Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The meeting of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries ended today in Recife with the signing

of an agreement to strengthen operations on border areas between Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Luiz Bernardes, chief of the Federal Revenues Customs Division, stated today in Recife in closing the ninth Mercosur meeting that the formation of the Common Market of the South is the solution to strengthening the four member countries' economies, generating income and employment, and providing better living conditions for society:

[Begin recording] All points are being discussed here at the Mercosur meeting. The common market's creation is the path we are looking for. Then we must all have a deeper understanding of Mercosur. As I said, Mercosur is a quest for development, a quest for the formation of a common market that will directly and favorably affect the lives of all citizens. [end recording]

After two weeks of meetings, the Mercosur representatives approved the Recife Agreement, a document that will facilitate border operations. They also signed a technical cooperation agreement with EC representatives. Among the agreement's main items we can mention the preparation of a glossary with a definition of the terms used in border negotiations, the unification of operational contributions, and the payment of tariffs and taxes.

New ALADI Secretary General Installed

PY1703155493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0046 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 16 Mar (EFE)—Antonio Jose Antunez, the new secretary general of the Latin American Integration Association, ALADI, has stated that it will be necessary to consolidate ALADI's role as the mechanism for regional integration, and thus avoid unnecessary duplications. He said this upon his installation on 15 March.

Antunez, a Brazilian citizen, replaced Colombian Jorge Luis Ordonez, who had completed his term in office. Colombian Ambassador Jorge Enrique Garavito said goodbye to Ordonez, to whom he handed a message of congratulations from Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo. [passage omitted]

Antunez, who had been ALADI's assistant secretary, is the first Brazilian to head this organization, which is made up of 11 Latin American countries that have been trying since 1960 to establish a common market, first through the LAFTA [Latin American Free Trade Association], and since 1980 through ALADI.

Venezuelan citizen Juan Francisco Rojas and Bolivian Isaac Maidana were also installed today as assistant secretary generals of ALADI, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, and Uruguay. [passage omitted]

South Pacific Permanent Commission Signs Sea Agreement

PY1903224593 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 6 Mar 93 p A4

[Text] Promoting ocean research, guaranteeing the preservation of the sea environment, and propitiating the progressive development of the right to territorial seas are the main agreements adopted during the meeting of the South Pacific Permanent Commission [CPPS] in Lima.

Thus, the foreign ministers of Colombia, Noemi Sanin de Rubio; Chile, Enrique Silva Cimma; Ecuador, Diego Paredes Pena; and Peru, Oscar de la Puente Raygada, agreed to support and strengthen the South Pacific Permanent Commission to become the organization in charge of watching over the correct use of the sea and its resources.

The declaration signed by the foreign ministers ratifies the rights of the states to guarantee the protection of species in the coastal ecosystems and those that are found beyond 200 miles.

Moreover, CPPS member countries feel they cannot remain impassive against unrestricted fishing activities by foreign fleets on the high seas and that special measures must be adopted in the future for this reason to protect threatened species.

Furthermore, to protect the sea environment from toxic substances, the ministers agreed to support the commission's initiatives within the context of the plan of action outlined for that purpose.

They finally established that the next meeting of this Latin American organization, created 40 years ago, will be held in Colombia on a date to be established by organization members.

24th South American Drug Conference Opens 22 Mar

PY2303192793 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 23 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] During the opening of the 24th Conference of the South American Accord on Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP) that is being held until 24 March at the Guarani Hotel, General Marcial Samaniego, head of the National Antidrug Secretariat (Senad), stated that without international aid it is impossible to fight drug trafficking. Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez said that the fight against drugs "is not appreciated in the right context." Rodriguez gave a brief address to the representatives of 10 South American countries that are participating in the event. The president wished them success and said: "We are not doing nearly enough against this scourge, really we are doing very little. We have the will and can do a lot more."

Samaniego stated that international drug trafficking can only be fought with international aid. He said: "No country on its own can assume tasks like educating

people on drug prevention, the creation and expansion of infrastructures for rehabilitating drug abusers, or the sanctioning of controls on multinational enterprises and financial firms that deal in enormous sums of foreign exchange, and at the same time offer the best

training for our personnel. These priorities can only be achieved with efficient, effective, and intelligent international aid. Without this aid we cannot even begin to think of reducing the illegal consumption of dangerous drugs."

Cuba**Mexican EXCELSIOR Publishes Alarcon Interview***FL2403005493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2045 GMT 23 Mar 93*

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has said that if pluralism exists in the world, one must begin by respecting Cuba's right to have and to develop its own system. In an interview published today in the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Alarcon stated that no one is forced to think exactly like the Cuban people and that is also a basic element of pluralism.

The president of the ANPP added that someone could disagree with our system, but it is elemental to note that the immense majority of the people agree with it and, furthermore, support it explicitly. Ricardo Alarcon stated that there is no perfect system in the world. Alarcon said: I believe that no one on this planet, in the Western and Christian world, can seriously say that they have discovered and established an ideal and perfect democracy.

In the interview, which was published today in the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Ricardo Alarcon, referring to Cuba, pointed out that the key to its democratic system is the participation of all the people in the decisions that have to do with all of them.

Alarcon, who is also a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that the important thing about democracy is practicing it everyday, not just every month or every four or five years. When he compared the Cuban situation with the disappearance of Eastern European states, Ricardo Alarcon underscored that Cuba has a true revolution that emerged from history itself and the reality of the island. He added that Cuba has the advantage of having the historical leaders of the revolution.

Alarcon concluded by saying that there may be great difficulties in Cuba that can get even worse, but there will not be a crumbling, self-elimination, treason, or dissolution.

Television Repeaters To Be Built in Mountainous Area*FL2403022993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2053 GMT 23 Mar 93*

[Text] The civil construction for the assembly of television signal repeaters [trasladadores] began in hard to reach areas of Bernardo and Cantillo in the municipalities of Yateras, and Maisi, in Guantanamo Province. Communications workers are fulfilling, with these and similar investments that will begin in the coming months, the instructions given by a commission of the Provincial Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba in Guantanamo during a visit to the area almost a year ago.

The project is aimed at gradually eliminating the silence zone in the mountainous municipality of Sagua Baracoa [as heard] and other high elevation areas, where 30 percent of the total surface does not receive video signals. To alleviate the situation and allow television programming to reach the populace of that area, signal repeaters will be installed this year in Loma de Cana and Minas.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs**Reportage on Caricom Leaders Meeting in Dominica****Draft Agreement Prepared on Cuban Mission***FL2303191293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1856 GMT 23 Mar 93*

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 23. CANA—Caribbean Community [Caricom] leaders could well end a meeting here Tuesday with some agreement to improve ties with Cuba, informed sources said. The Caricom secretariat has prepared a draft agreement on establishing a Caricom/Cuba joint mission along the lines of that developed with Mexico in 1974, according to the sources.

"It is fairly general in nature, providing the basis for modest, yet significant, developments in Caricom/Cuba relations," the sources said.

"It is proposed to convene a technical meeting during the latter part of April to prepare for the establishment of the joint commission."

Any such move is likely to worry U.S. officials, who maintain a trade embargo against the Spanish-speaking Communist state. The sources noted that not all the Caricom states had voted in support of a United Nations condemnation of a U.S. Congress Act, seeking to tighten the blockade against Havana. The act provides for the application of sanctions by the U.S. to countries trading or otherwise conducting cooperative relations with Cuba.

The sources noted the decision taken by the standing committee of ministers responsible for foreign affairs, who agreed that the moves by the United States "should not deter Caricom from the decision adopted at the 13th meeting of.... heads of government to establish a Caricom/Cuba joint commission."

The draft agreement on establishing the joint commission, a copy of which was obtained by CANA, shows the objectives of the commission will be to "promote cooperative relations between the Caribbean Community and Cuba in economic, social, cultural, and technological fields."

It said that the commission would meet "at least once every year" and that such meetings will be held alternately in a Caricom member state and Cuba "or at such other place as may be agreed" between the two parties. The draft agreement also provides a one year time limit for the withdrawal of either party from the accord.

Condemnation of Haitian Coup Reiterated

*FL2303183993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1824
GMT 23 Mar 93*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 23, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries have reiterated their condemnation of the military coup in Haiti, while announcing their support for continued work towards a resolution of the political crisis there. The leaders, meeting here for their fourth inter-session summit, have also urged member states "which has not yet done so to contribute to the full deployment of the international civilian mission to Haiti."

Haiti's president Jean Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a military coup over one year ago, and efforts by the international community to have him restored have so far proved to be fruitless. There have been allegations of human rights abuse in the country, with supporters of Aristide being among those being the most offended.

The Caricom leaders said in a statement they deplored repression and human rights abuse which were "perpetrated or sponsored by the de facto regime."

"The continuing attempts by the community to contribute to the resolution of the Haitian political crisis has brought to the fore the possible need on the part of the community to determine the desirability and, if so, the nature and extent of any contact between the community and the de facto regime in Haiti," the leaders said.

Leaders Discuss Banana Industry

*FL2303182593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1757
GMT 23 Mar 93*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 23, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) governments that have diplomatic relations with Central and Latin American countries have been urged to "make every effort" to sensitize them about the importance of the banana industry to Caricom. A background document for consideration by the heads of government referred to the dispute between Caribbean and Latin American countries over banana exports to Europe and underscored the need for diplomacy.

It said that community leaders should ensure that Caribbean countries which belong to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) "continue to monitor the developments in relation to bananas." In addition there was also agreement among the regional leaders to continue the lobbying efforts in the relevant capitals of Europe, regarding the protection of the banana industry. Caribbean banana producers have complained that

Latin American fruit exporters are trying to squeeze them out of the European market.

The meeting here was expected to discuss the European Community rules pertaining to the common organisation of the market in bananas in a United Europe. The EC agreed to impose a 20 per cent duty on imports from the so called "dollar banana" countries (Latin American) for the first 2 million tonnes and a heavier duty for additional quantities. The document welcomed the Venezuelan and Costa Rican position on the banana dispute.

"In the case of Costa Rica, a request has been made by that government to undertake a mission to a number of Caribbean banana exporting countries in order to convey and explain its position," it said.

Guyana Receives Commitment To Buy Rice

*FL2303162993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538
GMT 23 Mar 93*

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 23, CANA—Guyana has received a commitment from other Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries to buy more of its rice, a senior Guyana official said here. Nigel Gravesande, permanent secretary in the Guyana's Ministry of Trade, Tourism, and Industry, said Georgetown's concerns were outlined on Monday—opening day of an inter-session summit of regional leaders ending Tuesday. He said Guyana's president, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, had called for and received a commitment from the Caricom member countries.

Guyana had previously complained that Caribbean countries were heavily importing rice from outside the region, putting its industry under pressure. Thailand and Vietnam were identified as being among the countries selling rice within Caricom.

Caribbean community heads of government face a 12-item agenda. Issues range from the restructuring of the Guyana-based Caricom secretariat to the future of the region's banana industry, an issue of vital interest to the banana-dependent Windward Islands of which Dominica is part.

Trinidad and Tobago's foreign minister, Ralph Maraj, told CANA that the Barbados initiative for an assembly of Caribbean parliamentarians had received a favourable response during the morning session with Grenada and the Bahamas indicating that they would soon join Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Guyana in signing the accord.

"I think we are well on the way with this particular item and one of the interesting things that came up in the meeting is that the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific] will not be an expensive project, and of course this is very welcomed," he remarked.

Maraj said that the restructuring of the Guyana-based secretariat was also discussed, with the "feeling being expressed that Caricom runs the risk, like all multilateral organisations do, of becoming quite bureaucratised."

"This whole restructuring exercise.... is being looked at against this background and the acceptance of this threat which Caricom faces of [words indistinct] bureaucratised," he told CANA.

Guyanese Official Discusses Sugar Sales

FL2403145493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1339
GMT 24 Mar 93

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 24, CANA—Guyana, which in 1980 stopped selling sugar to other Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states because of its low output, is hoping to recapture some regional markets, according to David Hales, director general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He said that Georgetown would be selling sugar to [word indistinct] St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Barbados this year.

In the case of Dominica, there are plans to sell 2,000 metric tonnes as of September, while shipment of St. Vincent's quota of 3,000 tonnes is expected to begin in June, he reported. Grenada has so far received half of the 2,000 tonnes it has ordered, while St. Lucia is hoping to import 6,000 tonnes of brown sugar by August. Hales said that negotiations were in progress with the Barbados marketing corporation to buy seven to ten thousand tonnes of brown sugar from April.

"We are discussing the specifications of the sugar to be supplied to Barbados and also the price to be charged but hope to reach an agreement in time for the first shipment to be made in mid-April," he reported.

Hales said discussions were being held with agencies in Antigua and Barbuda on shipments from Georgetown. Discussions with Trinidad and Tobago's state-owned sugar producer, Caroni (1975) Limited, will centre on the possibility of Georgetown shipping brown sugar to be refined at Caroni, Hales said.

"That could be on-sold to Caricom countries where there is a market of about 18,000 tonnes," he explained.

But Hales said that the application of the Common External Tariff (CET) in respect of refined sugar had not yet been agreed by Caricom leaders and "therefore the proposed arrangement for selling Guyana's raw sugar for refining in Trinidad for onward sale is not at present commercially feasible."

Hales said that Guyana had achieved its sugar export quota to the European Community (EC) and "that we are now in a position, given the rising level of production, to take advantage of any shortfall that might arise in the event of any country being unable to meet its quota."

"Should the access to the Portuguese market become available to the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries, then Guyana would certainly be in a position to take advantage of that opportunity as well," he remarked. However, Hales said that Guyana was uneasy about the implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for Caribbean sugar producers.

"The implications could arise (because of) the current possibility under the NAFTA agreement for increased supplies from Mexico, in the event of Mexico having an exportable surplus....," he said.

"... The agreement provides for unlimited access for exportable surpluses for Mexico." Under these conditions, he said, "the Caribbean producers who export to the United States could find themselves in some difficulty."

Guyana exports 13,140 tonnes of sugar to the United States. The price on the U.S. market is in excess of the world market price, Hales said.

Trinidadian Minister Represents Manning

FL2303161893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1518
GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 23, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) Chairman Patrick Manning did not attend the heads of government inter-session meeting wrapping up in Dominica Tuesday, because the prime minister did not want to leave Trinidad and Tobago at this time, a government spokesman said. Gordon Draper, the minister responsible for public information told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY on Tuesday: "It was his (Manning's) own personal judgement."

Foreign Affairs Minister Ralph Maraj led the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, which included Trade Minister Brian Kuei Tung and several technical officers from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, to the Roseau meeting.

On Monday the prime minister met with opposition leader Basdeo Panday on the issues of the illegal drug trade in the country and the public commissions now sitting. In the afternoon, he addressed the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA).

Also missing the Roseau meeting were Jamaica's Prime Minister P.J. Patterson and Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite.

Cayman Islands

Government Says 'No Thanks' to Decolonization Committee

FL2403010793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2015
GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, March 23, CANA—The Government of the Cayman

Islands, a British colony, has politely said "no to any visit by the United Nations Decolonization Committee.

Speaking in the territorial legislature Monday, leader of government business Thomas Jefferson said: "Our answer to any visit by the Committee is a courteous 'no thanks.' We do not need nor want a visit by the Decolonization Committee."

The statement was in response to a recent newspaper report that the UN Decolonization Committee had mentioned the Cayman Islands as one of the top two locations in the Caribbean it would visit to determine if the local population was in favour of independence or wanted to vote on the issue.

Montserrat, also a [passage indistinct]. The story said these two territories would be first on the list of dependencies in the Caribbean the Committee would visit this year [passage indistinct] wish to place on public record that this government has not been requested by the Committee to give any permission for a visit," said Jefferson.

He noted that 12 of the 15 legislators who were elected in the November 1992 elections ran on a campaign of no constitutional change. That, he said, includes having the Cayman Islands remain a British territory since it would require a constitutional change for the islands to give up their status as a territory. The Cayman Islands have been a British territory for nearly three centuries. It was part of Jamaica, but voted to remain with Great Britain when Jamaica opted for independence in 1962.

The Caymans have a population of about 27,000 and are known for tourism and as an offshore tax haven and financial center. The islanders have remained fiercely loyal to Great Britain, despite past efforts by the Decolonization Committee to effect a vote on independence. No political candidate has ever been elected to the territorial legislature with a platform that included independence from Britain.

In addition to being loyal to Great Britain, the Cayman Islands are one of the few British territories that have never had to ask Britain to make up a budget deficit to run the country.

Aside from the Cayman Islands and Montserrat, other British territories in the Caribbean and Atlantic are Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Haiti

Government Satisfied With Clinton-Aristide Meeting

FL2303232193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] In a press release from the latest Council of Ministers meeting, the government noted with satisfaction that emphasis during the Clinton/Aristide meeting

was on the necessity for dialogue and negotiation, not violence, as a means of solving the crisis. The 17 March council was pleased about that, pointing out that it was the path chosen by the consensus government since its inception.

Prime Minister Marc Bazin said during this meeting that there could be no lasting or satisfying agreements until the Haitian institutions are reinforced.

Pezzullo: U.S. To Play Role in Democracy Restoration

FL2303225493 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] All the sectors in Haiti or abroad say that the solution to the Haitian crisis should result from negotiations among the concerned parties. The latest person to make this statement is Lawrence Pezzullo, special representative of the U.S. secretary of state. Pezzullo, speaking at the conclusion of a 48-hour visit he made to Haiti over the weekend, also believes that the embargo has destroyed all that remains of the Haitian economy.

Although he did not wish to reveal the results of his meetings with several authorities in the country, the U.S. diplomat stated that his country has decided to play a significant role in the restoration of democracy in Haiti. Pezzullo did not mention any deadline set by the United States for reinstatement of the overthrown president. He believes this aspect depends on the international mediator in the Haitian crisis, Dante Caputo.

Caputo To Meet With Prime Minister, Army Staff

FL2303153593 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The international mediator in the Haitian crisis, Dante Caputo, arrived in the capital during the afternoon of 22 March. This, his fourth visit, should enable him to continue meeting with various sectors in the country. Mr. Caputo, who considers this mission the second step following the deployment of the civilian mission, stated that his mission is to continue the negotiations in order to find a solution to the political crisis. The most important thing in this second step is that everyone and all parties should agree on a calendar in order to ascertain when the crisis might end. On that score, the international mediator said he has a calendar in his mind, but he provided no details.

Furthermore, Caputo said he would work jointly with Lawrence Pezzullo, special representative of the U.S. secretary of state on the Haitian file. He denied at the same time the rumor that he said that the Haitian crisis should be resolved within three or four months. An official source close to the civilian mission advises that Mr. Caputo may spend one week in the country. This time, the former Argentine diplomat will not stay solely in the capital. He is expected to follow the deployment of the observers throughout the rest of the country, especially in the south and the southeast. During his visit to

the country, Caputo will meet with the Army High Command, the prime minister, representatives of the private sector, and political leaders.

Cedras Comments on Release of Deserting Soldier

FL2403005293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The civilian government allegedly facilitated the departure of Haitian soldier Coracelin Williams. In an interview with the daily newspaper LE NOUVELISTE, General Raoul Cedras revealed that the government which entered into talks with the U.S. authorities had decided to release the deserting soldier. The Army complied with a request from the government, following political talks with the U.S. Administration, explained the Army commander in chief to a LE NOUVELISTE journalist.

Regarding military regulations, the general considers himself to have acted in compliance with the military code. If the case were to happen again, we would react the same way, stated Gen. Cedras.

According to information related by LE NOUVELISTE, the case of soldier Coracelin Williams was the subject of a sustained correspondence between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the American Embassy on one hand, and the Haitian Chancellery and Army Headquarters on the other.

Izmery Considers Employee's Murder Political Act

FL2303225593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] An employee of Antoine Izmery, reported missing last week, was identified this weekend in the mortuary of the General Hospital. The parents of the victim assert that (Jeanjo) Julien was stoned and macheted to death.

Antoine Izmery, a businessman close to the ousted government, announced the news on 22 March, believing that the attacks against his employees are related to his political position.

Jamaica

Labor Party Narrowing People's National Party Lead

FL2303131493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1240 GMT 23 Mar 93

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 22, CANA—Jamaica's two big political parties entered the final week of campaigning for March 30 general elections with a new poll showing Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) having narrowed the lead of the ruling People's National Party (PNP). However, a substantial majority of respondents in the opinion survey still expected the PNP to win

a second mandate. And Prime Minister P.J. Patterson maintained a personal approval rating well ahead of Seaga.

The new findings, giving the PNP a four point lead over the JLP, were released as both leaders returned from a weekend of campaigning in western Jamaica, wooing voters and attempting to spell out in more detail than hitherto, their plans for government after the election. In the survey, the PNP got 38 per cent support against 34 per cent for the JLP with 38 per cent of the potential electorate uncommitted.

The poll was done over the weekend of March 13-14 before the March 16 televised debate between Patterson and Seaga and the intensification of campaigning here. It has an error margin of plus or minus 3 per cent. The survey, supervised by Rosemarie Stone, widow of the late renowned pollster Professor Carl Stone, should be a morale booster for Seaga and the JLP needing to convince supporters that the election result was not a foregone conclusion.

In the event, the latest findings suggested that the JLP gained 8 points from the previous January/February poll when it had slipped to 26 per cent, 3 points less than its standing last October. The January/February poll was last done with Professor Stone when he was alive, but at a time when he was seriously ill, its accuracy was attacked by Seaga.

"The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hand is the hand of Esau," declared Seaga at the time—a reference to the biblical story of Jacob's theft of his brother Esau's birthright by tricking his blind father, Isaac.

In the latest survey, the PNP picked up a single point to reach its highest level of support since May 1990, while the ranks of the uncommitted dropped 8 points to 28 per cent. The pollsters suggested the JLP's rejuvenation was influenced by the campaigning, causing some of its supporters to leave the ranks of the uncommitted. However, they did not believe the opposition party would have enough momentum to win the election.

"The poll findings suggest that they are unlikely to regain the ascendancy they enjoyed in May 1992," the pollsters said. At that time, the JLP had 38 per cent support, against 32 per cent for the PNP. In the new poll, published by the GLEANER newspaper, 57 per cent felt that the PNP would win the election, against 24 per cent who thought the JLP would come out ahead. Nineteen per cent said they did not know.

Seaga has suggested that if the JLP loses the election, it would have to do with more than the will of the electorate, and include the actions of the electoral office here. For the second time in less than a fortnight, Seaga launched a personal attack on director of elections, Noel Lee, and his handling of the preparation of the voters register.

In a March 10 campaign speech, Seaga claimed that 55 000 names had been left off the voters register—figures ridiculed by Lee, the PNP, and the independent chairman of the Electoral Advisory Committee (EAC) which runs elections here. The EAC is made up of two members each of the JLP and PNP and three independent members. At the time, Seaga warned that his party could be calling for Lee's resignation.

Sunday he suggested that fraud could be taking place at the electoral office and that several names—ostensibly those of JLP supporters—were not getting on the register. Said Seaga: "We are wondering whether something is happening at the electoral office we don't know about and we are beginning to suspect... We are wondering whether fraud is there."

Seaga, who made clear that he was holding Lee directly responsible for any irregularities, added: "I don't pull punches on these things. I am not fighting to lose on that day because of the electoral office or Mr. Noel Lee. And I name him again."

The renewed controversy surrounding the electoral register overshadowed Seaga's declaration of his policy prescriptions for Jamaica, and the critique of the PNP's handling of the government over the past four years. The JLP has been pointing to the sharp devaluation of the Jamaican dollar since it left office in 1989 because of what it argues was a premature liberalisation of the foreign exchange market.

It has also been highlighting the problems in education, health, and public transport and Seaga has been suggesting that he would lull out plans shelved after his party left office.

Meanwhile, it was an apparently confident Patterson who was being his most specific yet in enunciating policy goals at a rally in the north-western city of Montego Bay Saturday night. Patterson promised to reduce unemployment to 12 per cent by 1996 [words indistinct], generate economic growth at an annual average rate of 3.5 per cent over the next five years, and drag down inflation to no more than 6.5 per cent over the next five years. Inflation last year was 34 per cent.

Patterson also promised that his government would rejuvenate agriculture, including increasing domestic food production, while increasing export crops to earn foreign exchange. Patterson, who became prime minister a year ago following the retirement of Michael Manley, must be hoping that his personal popularity will pull through the PNP and its candidates even when there are doubts about its policies and management capabilities.

The latest poll said 55 per cent of the electorate felt that he would do a better job than Seaga in leading the country. Thirty-two per cent thought Seaga was the best man for the prime ministerial job. Thirteen per cent did not know.

Meantime, the PNP has been attempting to exploit perceived doubts about the unity of the JLP after the party moved to mend internal rifts in the run-up to the elections when disaffected members, Parnell Charles, Douglas Vaz, and Errol Anderson were brought back into the fold. They, along with fellow JLP candidate Ed Bartlett, were members of the so-called gang of five, estranged from the party for raising questions about Seaga's leadership style which they claimed was autocratic.

At the weekend, the PNP began to air its television advertisements, featuring news clips from the JLP conference in mid 1992 when scuffles broke out between supporters of the so-called gang and party "security" men. The clips show Charles, Vaz, and others denouncing the actions and the party's leadership, and saying that the actions were aimed at preventing Charles' supporters from entering the conference hall to vote for him as a vice president. One clip shows JLP general secretary, Ryan Peralto, saying that he and possibly Seaga would resign if Charles won the post. Seaga has insisted that the wounds have been healed.

Trinidad and Tobago

Prime Minister Manning on Trade Reform Program
FL2303133693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1254 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 22, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning said Monday his government's trade reform programme was fully on stream. Giving the feature address at the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA) general meeting, Manning said the move towards liberalisation of the trading environment would result in economic growth.

On a global scale the removal of barriers to trade, particularly by the industrialised countries, would provide greater opportunity for access to markets for all developing countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, remarked the prime minister. A cornerstone of its economic policies, the trade reform will incorporate dismantling of the negative list—a list of restricted imports—medium-term tariff reform (gradual elimination of import duty exemptions), creation of a special regime of incentives to encourage export-oriented production, and improved trade facilitation and customs administration.

Noting that world trade was projected by the General Agreement of Trade and Tariffs (GATT) to grow by 3 per cent this year, Manning added that if there could be a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round this year it would induce structural changes in the trading regimes of all countries and increase global income by more than U.S. 195 billion dollars in 1993.

Manning said in the pursuit of the move towards trade liberalisation, government had attempted to deal with the issue of dumping, "not just for the sake of protecting our domestic market against undesirable imports, but also to protect our local manufacturers against unfair competition." He said government was considering amendments to the

regulations of the anti-dumping and countervailing duties bill which was passed in Parliament last year.

"This will assist in levelling the playing field, so to speak and strengthening the market positions of domestic firms," Manning said.

Costa Rica

IDB Approves Loans With U.S. Vote

PA2303131093 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
18 Mar 93 p4a

[Report by Mauricio Martinez S.]

[Text] Costa Rica has succeeded. Following an intense political and legal battle, on 17 March, the United States agreed to vote in favor of two loans for Costa Rica at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In addition, it eased up, at least for now, the pressures for our country to solve cases of expropriations against North Americans.

Unanimously, the 12 IDB directors approved sectorial investment loans for \$100 million and multisectorial credits for \$70 million. Long days of negotiations were left behind.

President Rafael Angel Calderon and Gonzalo Facio, the Costa Rican ambassador to the White House, expressed satisfaction with the agreement. Facio headed the talks with the Clinton administration on this matter.

The U.S. Embassy in San Jose had no comments. However, it was believed that this favorable vote from Washington is based on an agreement reached on 15 March between the Costa Rican Government and Joseph Hamilton, one of the owners of the controversial Santa Elena farm in Guanacaste.

In addition, on 16 March, the Legislative Assembly approved, in a third debate, the so-called Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States (ICSID) of the World Bank. The dispute with Hamilton will be solved through the arbitration mechanism contemplated in the ICSID.

In the 17 March session of the IDB, which started at 1000 (0900 Washington time), the representatives of Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, France, Italy, and, unexpectedly, the United States, in the person of Larry Mellinger, made lengthy statements favoring the credits and the country's economic programs.

After recalling the conflicts that had arisen from the seven confiscation cases against the North Americans, Mellinger said that he would vote in favor of the two loans because much progress was made in these cases and because the Costa Rican Government was willing to reach an agreement. In addition, the Assembly had approved the ICSID.

Dr. Edgar Ayales, the Central American delegate to the IDB, reported over the telephone that Mellinger said: "this gives us peace of mind and we will approve the credits, gladly."

In his reply, the last speech prior to the voting, Ayales criticized the United States for using a multilateral organization to settle a bilateral problem. "I preferred

not to make any comments about the reasons behind Mellinger's remarks and I expressed appreciation for the support given to Costa Rica."

Meanwhile, Jesse Helms, the Republican senator and key promoter of the pressures against Costa Rica, said that he was very happy to see that this country and Hamilton had reached "an acceptable agreement."

Deborah De Moss, Helms' adviser in Latin American affairs, stated that they will continue fighting to solve satisfactorily other expropriation cases.

She congratulated President Calderon because, according to her, he was able to attain something other Costa Rican presidents had failed to do with the Hamilton case. However, she warned that what happened at the IDB on 17 March cannot be construed as a victory for Costa Rica and a defeat for Senator Helms. Instead, she added, we are very happy, and we believe that it is a victory for any North American citizen and for all those who have confiscation problems.

El Salvador

Defense Minister on Truth Commission Report

PA2403041093 San Salvador Radio and Television
Networks in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Statement by Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce on Truth Commission report; place not given—live]

[Text] Salvadoran people, good evening. As authorized by the president of the Republic and Armed Forces commander, we are going to state our position. In view of the publication of the Truth Commission report, the Salvadoran Armed Forces, on reaffirming the principles and values that are the basis of its performance, declares that the conclusions and proposals of the report distort the historic reality and make accusations that are devoid of basis and objectivity. It has a negative effect on the peace process, which is supported by all sectors of the citizens.

Once again, the Armed institution reiterates its faith in the principles and values that are essential and have served, throughout history, to fulfill its duty. These norms were always assumed in pursuit of the most significant national objectives, and at the cost of the sacrifice of those who gave their lives to save the fatherland from communist dictatorship. The Armed Forces reminds the citizens that:

1. The soldiers did not provoke the war. We did not incite the civilian population to take up weapons against their brothers and against the laws of the Republic. We did not engage in the infamous task of destroying and razing the material assets that are the basis of work and national progress. The Armed Forces have always acted in fulfillment of the orders emanating from the maximum authorities of the state and in support of the

organizations that make up the public administration. These functions have been broadly legitimized by popular will and have been demonstrated at the polls in multiple free and democratic elections.

2. The Armed Forces reiterates its will to continue to fulfill the constitutional mission of defending state sovereignty, even at the cost of the greatest sacrifices.

3. The Armed Forces, as a permanent institution at the service of the nation, will use the legal resources deemed sufficient, such as the right of legitimate defense, against those who promote its destruction and that of the Republic.

4. The Armed Forces of El Salvador responds affirmatively to the call for national reconciliation to achieve the peace to which we aspire, within a regime of laws that are respectful of the essential rights of persons and are consistent with the principles and desires that led our forefathers to declare their independence.

5. The Armed Forces is proud to have fulfilled its mission of defending society and the political juridical systems of the state. This has been a fundamental struggle to preserve democracy and guarantee the operation of the institutions that are proper of a modern nation.

The Armed Forces, as guarantor of the state's sovereignty, cannot accept the fact that its constitutional duty, which is defending the fatherland from any kind of aggression, was ignored in the report. The Truth Commission surpassed the authority it may have received or acquired through the peace agreements and invaded the constitutional field, the authority of government institutions, and the fair administration of justice.

In addition, the Truth Commission report did not recognize the nature and origin of communist attacks in El Salvador. The Commission did not recognize the legitimate right to defend the legally constituted government in face of any attack.

The Armed Forces also believes the early disclosure of the report clearly reflects the intention of discrediting the Armed Forces internationally and domestically. In drafting its report, the Commission used biased criteria and sources to show—in its own way—preconceived facts and ideas, with the purpose of staining the honor and dignity of the institution and making the public believe the Armed Forces and its members systematically violated human rights. At no time were the persons accused given the opportunity to reply to the accusations or defend themselves publicly of the charges made against them. The report condemns them, showing contempt for the legal process that should exist in a state of law.

For those reasons, we consider the report unjust, incomplete, illegal, unethical, biased, and bold. Therefore, we affirm that the report frustrated the hopes and faith of all Salvadorans, who expected a serious and impartial document that would contribute to heal the wounds caused by 12 years of war, and support the process of moral and material reconstruction in the country.

It is a contradiction to use unilateral data and statistics and omit 695 cases submitted to the Commission by the Armed Forces, including selective crimes and massacres against members of the institution and their relatives: the case of Colonel Choto; the murder of Colonel Monterrosa and his companions; of Colonel Cienfuegos; of Miss Ana Isabel Casanova, daughter of Colonel Casanova; of Captains Reyes Fernandez and Ivan Romero; the massacres of Quebrada Seca, Entre Rios, and Nueva Trinidad; and many other cases, as well as 30 cases involving judges and attacks on political personalities. This information was presented with sufficient evidence from various reliable sources.

It is also a contradiction to omit the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] systematic opposition to the investigation of actions committed by its members, justification of their violence through historical circumstances, and assignment of very little responsibility to the rebels. At the same time, the report unjustly portrays the government and the Armed Forces as the biggest violators of human rights. The report did not mention the horrors and sufferings that the communists so-called prolonged people's war caused in all social groups, particularly the poorest sectors, where the fury of the attacks were mostly felt. The report does not remember the hundreds of children and young peasants mutilated by booby traps, and those killed during attacks on public transportation buses, health centers, and government buildings. It does not recall the damage caused to isolated communities where bridges were destroyed, the damage suffered by merchants and workers as a result of the so-called economic sabotage. It does not mention the hundreds of displaced people as a result of subversive attacks.

To deal with such cases of violation in a partial way denotes a clear intention to destroy institutionality, social peace, and the Armed Forces. The Truth Commission did not admit in vain to siding with and working outside of the jurisdiction of laws that are in effect in all countries. [sentence as heard] It has also knowingly violated the laws of our country; those laws that guarantee all citizens the right to a fair trial following the basic principles of justice. Despite stating that its intention is to contribute to reconciliation, the fact remains the report creates an atmosphere contrary to the spirit of harmony and reunification of the Salvadoran people. The foregoing justifies the Armed Forces' wish to doubt the Commission's attempts to find the truth. Furthermore, the members of the Commission, in addition to being notoriously prejudicial, have not met any applicable judicial ethical criteria, are hiding unknown interests, and have jeopardized Salvadoran sovereignty.

The report does not analyze all the causes that divided the Salvadoran society, particularly those regarding the FMLN, whose objectives directly threatened the institutional order of the Republic, besides attacking the nation's political, economical, and social system. This, in simple logical terms, was and is a threat to peace, security, and the well-being of our people. The FMLN

resorted to violence, destruction, abduction, murder, and continuous attacks against the people as its way of reaching total power. This forced the country's legitimate government to use force to repel the violence to which it was subjected.

The Armed Forces is proud to have fulfilled its mission of defending the population and promoting peace and the preservation of our democratic republican system, as it demonstrated with its actions throughout this tragic and dark period of our history. It did so and paid with its blood, its sacrifice, and [word indistinct], yet always strengthened in its faith in God and an unbending spirit of sacrifice and service to the nation.

The Armed Forces hereby reaffirms that the Truth Commission report twists the historic truth and contains unacceptable and totally unfounded charges that lack all objectivity against the institution. Good evening and may God bless.

MSN Position on Truth Commission Recommendations

PA2403021193 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The National Solidarity Movement, MSN, stated the government must be given space to fulfill the recommendations by the Truth Commission after the approval of an amnesty law for those involved in human rights violations, which terrified Salvadoran society throughout the decade of war.

Jose Humberto Posada, who was presented as a new member of the MSN on 23 March, said it is necessary to give space to determine if the government has the will to carry out the pacification process.

The parties agreed to it, with UN mediation, and must now fulfill the agreements, added the MSN representative.

[Begin recording] [Posada] The position of the MSN is that the recommendations must be fulfilled. The agreement to create the Truth Commission was made without knowing the results. The two parties promised to fulfill the recommendations of the Truth Commission. The MSN has made that clear and forthright demand.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Posada] I believe that, unfortunately, the mechanisms are being sought to attain fulfillment, which is speculation. I believe some space should be given to determine if the government has goodwill and fulfills the recommendations.

[Reporter] What if there is none?

[Posada] Then, at that moment, we should see what to do. [end recording]

Maintaining the position of giving the government space to fulfill the recommendations of the Truth Commission, the MSN criticized the sectors that are seeking to make the government fulfill them under international pressure.

Jose Humberto Posada said foreign aid, which is needed by El Salvador, must not be jeopardized.

[Begin Posada recording] [Words indistinct] seek the international organizations because that is very dangerous, not only for the political institutions in our country, but also for the low-income class.

[Passage indistinct] the UN, the EEC, and the U.S. Congress, which means again swinging the pendulum over our people regarding the cut of the international aid. I believe that is unethical. I believe the parties represented at the Legislative Assembly that are unable to convince others of the measures taken should not seek international mechanisms because that would result in harsh punishment for our people. That could lead to losing the generalized preferential system, which allows us to receive preferential prices for many of our products, and not being able to sell many of our nontraditional products. [end recording]

The MSN ratified their position regarding the fulfillment of the recommendations of the Truth Commission after presenting Jose Humberto Posada as their representative at the Central American Parliament.

The MSN does not oppose the amnesty law, but opposes the way in which it was approved.

De Soto Calls Truth Commission Recommendations 'Binding'

PA2303143393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Alvaro de Soto, special envoy of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, said on 22 March that the Truth Commission recommendations are binding, despite the approval of the amnesty law. De Soto said he is ignoring the impact the amnesty may have and hopes it does not affect the Truth Commission recommendations on the dismissal and ineligibility for political posts of some figures mentioned in the report. He said he regrets that the amnesty law's approval was not based on a consensus among all the political parties, noting that in a few days the UN may remind the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front they must comply with the recommendations.

Judges Declare Strike To Protest Truth Commission Report

PA2303211793 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The country's judges have announced a strike to protest the Truth Commission report and express support for Supreme Court President Dr. Mauricio Gutierrez Castro. The Truth Commission members have

questioned the judicial system and recommended that all magistrates be removed due to the high degree of corruption.

Many political sectors have asserted that a change of judges, magistrates, and Supreme Court president will really cleanse the judicial system. The judges, however, disagree with that position and have declared that a strike will begin in the next few hours.

Cristiani Discusses Amnesty, Other Issues

PA2303124693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1710 GMT 22 Mar 93

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified moderator and local reporters; place not given—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Reporter] ...amnesty the Legislative Assembly approved, will it be implemented two days after its publication in the official newspaper?

[Cristiani] I do not think this is the time to demand conditions and seek negotiations based on amnesty. Now is the time to seek what is best for a country that has suffered so much. We must turn that page once and for all, and we must look toward the future.

[Moderator] Rene Cibrian.

[Cibrian] Mr. President, the recommendations in the Truth Commission report mention a special investigation of the death squads. Has the government taken the necessary steps for that? Also, how will the government handle the violations of the political Constitution in the amnesty declaration? I believe Article 244 poses a problem. As you will have to approve the law, how do you intend to solve the problem?

[Cristiani] I regret that people mostly talk about the death squads in connection with things that occurred many years ago. The important thing is to prevent that type of violence, which is generated by clandestine groups in the country. We have always investigated the groups that appear to carry out violent actions based on their ideologies, or whatever. We will continue to investigate what happens or may happen within that scheme, but I think it would be difficult to investigate things that happened in 1980.

The Truth Commission has expressed its opinion, and that opinion can be accepted or rejected. The important thing is to prevent more violent clandestine actions. We have said on several occasions that the government will act strictly to prevent that type of clandestine violence.

I have not seen the bill approved by the Legislative Assembly. I expect to receive it in a matter of days. We will analyze it to see if it violates the Constitution in any way. As far as I know, amnesty does not violate the Republic's Constitution.

[Moderator] Antonio Minera.

[Minera] Mr. President, good morning. There was a news conference this morning at the Isidro Menendez Judicial Center. The director of forensic medicine and the San Francisco Gotera judge rejected the Truth Commission's charges that the Supreme Court of Justice president had delayed the exhumation of bodies in El Mozote. They said the Truth Commission had issued a document requesting that the exhumations be delayed. In other words, they rejected the charges.

The most critical thing is that approximately 500 judges met at the same time in the judicial center to analyze the possibility of decreeing a stoppage in the judicial branch's activities, meaning the judges would go on strike although they know it violates the political Constitution. The judges say they will decree a stoppage in the judicial branch if the Truth Commission is not kept from exerting pressure with its report. The critical thing...[pauses] I believe the Truth Commission report has begun to destabilize the country. What is your opinion?

[Cristiani] I believe our position has been clear about that. State agencies mentioned in the Truth Commission report have every right to state their views. No one has stopped them from doing so, and I believe they have the right to do so, particularly those affected by the report. Likewise, the people who believe they are affected by the report have every right to state their views. A lawyer has publicly done this in a letter to the UN secretary general. In fact, we will give the agencies the opportunity to state their views. I believe the country has the right to hear both sides of the story. There is no need for drastic actions. Although the judicial branch is independent from the executive branch, we have been able to see the initial reactions at the Supreme Court of Justice. I believe the situation will be solved within the judicial branch. This is not the time for drastic actions that are contrary to the atmosphere of reconciliation and tranquility the country demands. Some groups obviously believe they are being pressured, which they consider unjustified, and they have every right to express their views.

[Moderator] Oscar Lopez.

[Lopez] Good day, Mr. President. Apparently the people and some government sectors still have expectations for the Truth Commission report. Regarding the law approved on 20 March by the Legislative Assembly, what position would your government adopt if there was some contradiction with the political Constitution?

[Cristiani] As I answered the previous question, I do not know the full text of the law that was approved. I expect to receive it soon, and I will analyze it.

In broad terms, the general and absolute amnesty is not unconstitutional. It is totally feasible to grant such an amnesty, and the authority is clearly expressed in the Constitution. Obviously the executive branch's duty is to ensure that the Constitution is upheld, and in that sense the law will be analyzed. If it contains something that, according to our legal criteria—when I say our, I mean

here at the Presidential House—violates the Constitution, we will announce it. However, I cannot tell you beforehand whether it contains some illegality because I have not seen it.

[Moderator] Carlos Marquez.

[Marquez] Mr. President, in light of the amnesty that has been approved, does the government fear there could be reactions from the international community that could jeopardize the country's aid? My other question is: Have you already decided who will be the new defense minister?

[Cristiani] First, I read some passages of the report's epilogue, which I think are right, and I think that whatever is done about a possible amnesty or how the reconciliation is handled or attained in our country is something completely internal.

Therefore, I believe the other countries must respect the will of the majority of the Salvadoran people. We do not believe the country should be subjected to foreign criteria. It is our duty to handle such a delicate but important situation as attaining national reconciliation so the country can start thinking about something else.

We have still not decided who will be the replacement at the Defense Ministry.

[Moderator] Norma Jimenez.

[Jimenez] Good day. Alvaro De Soto recently said amnesty was not taken into consideration in the Truth Commission report, and he also regretted that it was not approved by consensus. On the other hand, he said the recommendations included in the report are obligatory. As you have said that fulfillment of the recommendations is conditional upon their not transgressing the constitutional order, there is already a contradiction between your statements and the report.

[Cristiani] The first thing the head of state of any democratic country does is swear to fulfill and make others fulfill the Constitution, regardless of what others from abroad may think. As I said, I believe our commitment was to fulfill the recommendations, but we will not violate our Constitution even if fulfilling the recommendations requires it. If there is something that violates the Constitution....[pauses] Just like the process of drafting the peace agreements, we always agreed we had to respect the Constitution. That is not new to the peace agreements.

In that sense, we maintain our position. We will not violate our country's Constitution even if we have promised to fulfill the recommendation. We will fulfill those recommendations that do not violate our constitutional order.

What was the second question?

[Jimenez] About the amnesty, about De Soto saying amnesty was not considered in the report.

[Cristiani] There are many things we do in our country that are contemplated neither in the peace agreements nor in the report. We do not rule based solely on the peace agreements. We rule in what we deem necessary for the country's welfare.

[Jimenez] [Words indistinct] position for the reconciliation because the amnesty was not approved by consensus.

[Cristiani] I think we should point out a difference in which I see some inconsistency because everyone has said—even in my presence, so they cannot deny it—that they all are for an amnesty. The problem is that some are raising obstacles. They claim they want to negotiate one thing or another. We regret that they did not provide the consensus because, if we talk about consensus, the majority obviously seeks consensus in a democracy.

They did seek consensus for a couple of days but always tried to impose some positions that we do not believe are part of the analysis at this moment, because now is not the time to say: Amnesty yes, but... you either want the amnesty or not. Either it is the solution for the country's reconciliation or it is not.

Some said fulfilling the recommendations should come first, but what is the difference? If we will grant the amnesty later, why not grant it now and give everyone tranquility and avoid the confrontation that some sectors still insist upon?

In that sense, I also regret the lack of consensus, but I do not think the problem is on our side. I think the others' lack of consensus is the problem.

[Moderator] Erwin Ortiz.

[Ortiz] Good day, Mr. President. I have two questions: If you say you will adhere to the Constitution and do nothing that violates the Constitution, would it be feasible...[pauses] would you...? [pauses] On the morning of 22 March, the Legal Studies Institute of El Salvador [IEJES] requested that you veto the amnesty approved on 20 March because it is unconstitutional as it violates Article 244, which some of your officials do not know as they have made no reference to it. The article states that persons who have committed human rights violations in the same presidential term shall not be granted amnesty.

Apparently this amnesty is focused on the murder of the Jesuits, as if intended to cover that deed. That was my first question. The second

[Cristiani, interrupting] That is your opinion.

[Ortiz] No, that is the opinion of a legal expert.

My second question is: If you plan to heed the recommendations, and now this amnesty has been approved, what do you plan to fulfill? One of the main points is that those involved, whether they are military personnel or civilians, should not hold public offices.

[Cristiani] We have said we will analyze the amnesty law to determine whether it contains unconstitutional points. I said that the granting of a general and absolute amnesty is not being considered unconstitutional as that and the proper procedures are contemplated in the Constitution.

Second, once we have identified the amnesty as constitutional, we will have to determine who has the right to benefit from it. The amnesty is not unconstitutional, the issue is who has the right to be granted amnesty. There must be an analysis—they say they are lawyers, and I am not—and maybe we will have to study the case deeper. The amnesty, per se, is not unconstitutional. The issue is who may enjoy the grace of the amnesty. That is what I think, starting from the stated definition.

But I want to point something out. We have not granted amnesty aimed at any sector. It is a general and absolute amnesty that includes members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] who have committed equally atrocious crimes or perhaps even worse ones. It includes any sector of the country that may have committed such crimes. Not many people will be saved by that, either, including some who today claim that it does not benefit them but just benefits others. They claim it is directed at a particular group. I want to stress that this is the healthiest measure for the reconciliation of Salvadorans.

[Moderator] Nery Reyes.

[Reyes] Good day. Regarding the Truth Commission report, reports from Washington say that the current U.S. administration is investigating some former officials of the Reagan and Bush administrations because they covered up some information they had with regard to human rights violations and abuses of authority in El Salvador. My question is: Mr. President, what do you expect from this investigation? How do you view this situation of a cover up in this country, and why was it possible to learn of it only at the international level and through the Truth Commission?

[Cristiani] The first question is based on a result that has not yet been reached. I understand that the idea is to investigate. We cannot reach the conclusion that, indeed, some cases have been covered up. I ignore what happened in previous administrations, but in my case I can tell you that—although we did not base our findings on the information the U.S. Government might have had—in 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1992 all the reports from Mr. Pastor Ridruejo, who was the UN appointed ombudsman for human rights in El Salvador, stated categorically that there had been significant advances regarding human rights.

We cannot jump to conclusions or ask what I think about someone covering up something. I do not know whether or not anyone has hidden anything. Of course, the United States and its government is perfectly sovereign in determining what to investigate regarding that affair. That is a very particular governmental problem, between

the U.S. Legislative and Executive Branches, which has nothing to do with El Salvador. It should not have any kind of repercussions as I believe it is something totally internal in the United States.

[Reyes] The news reports also state that this may have some repercussions here because of possible U.S. policy changes toward El Salvador. In the past few days, we have learned of the official notification that aid will be withheld until the Army purge is completed.

[Cristiani] I believe that, in this sense, some are rather trying to get the U.S. Executive Branch to explain what El Salvador or the Salvadoran Government has done. That is to say, we in our country have done what we could to end the armed conflict, take significant steps in institutional reform that may strengthen our democracy, and, I repeat, all countries are sovereign in determining the policy they deem best toward another country. Of course, El Salvador also has the sovereignty to define its policy toward foreign countries.

[Moderator] Maria Elvira Salazar.

[Salazar] Good day. Mr. President, following along the lines of the questions posed by my colleagues, the left-wing—namely Joaquin Villalobos—said on 19 March that since he is the only one mentioned in it, he believes that the report had a political taint. The Nationalist Republican Alliance said this report is not completely truthful. Thus, practically all the parties mentioned in the report are already saying: I do not like this. What do you think of this report? Do you think it is truthful, that it has fulfilled its mission, or that it is only confusing everything?

[Cristiani] I believe that many are trying to interpret the report differently than in the spirit that prevailed when we said: Let's make such a report. I believe the report mentions, no less than 20 times, the word reconciliation with regard to the Truth Commission agreement. Basically, we wanted the truth to be known so that a chapter such as the one we suffered in our country over the past few years would not be repeated. I believe that it must be interpreted in that sense. Others try to interpret it as accusations or as implying that we should act in such a way against someone or that we want this or that. Some persons went to the Legislative Assembly to yell: Justice, justice! What is justice?

The report, as I said, only covers part of what has happened. It does not cover everything that happened in our country. There should be justice for those who appear in the report. But we should agree on justice for those who do not appear in the report but who we know have also committed crimes....

[Salazar, interrupting] Do you think that, for political reasons, the Commission—as some political sectors say—omitted the names of persons they had evidence against and could have named but erased them from the

report to avoid destabilizing this country? Do you think that was done, that—for the good of the fatherland—names were omitted?

[Cristiani] You know our position. This business about the names would have been a good subject to take up at another time. We should have postponed the naming of culprits until a better time. Now it has caused a big controversy. Some say, how is it possible that, regarding the FMLN, only the leader of one of the five groups is mentioned and the leaders of none of the other four groups are mentioned? Did only this group commit criminal or violent acts or did they all? Why is only one group mentioned?

To seek reconciliation in our country, I have decided to understand that this is a partial report. It only covers part of what happened and, therefore, we should not conclude that this report is meant to aid us in legally persecuting anyone or to continue investigations here or there. This is only meant to report on what, in accordance with the investigations and criteria of three persons appointed by the UN secretary general, believe occurred. Thus, each person, each group, and each sector has the right to interpret this and say: This is totally true, this is a half-truth, this is false, or whatever they want.

Human Rights Commission Leader Criticizes Amnesty Law

PA2303220993 San Salvador: Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Leaders of the nongovernmental Salvadoran Human Rights Commission [CDHES] criticized the amnesty law approved on 20 March and said the victims' relatives should have been the ones to decide if a pardon was granted to those mentioned in the Truth Commission report.

CDHES leader Celia Medrano said the party in power is using this amnesty to shield public officials and military leaders who are mentioned in the Truth Commission report.

[Begin Medrano recording] The Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] is evading, for itself as a political party and for Arena members, the legal consequences of initiating judicial proceedings against high-ranking military and civilian officials mentioned in the Truth Commission report. [end recording]

The CDHES member said approval of the amnesty law invalidates the work of the Truth Commission. She added those involved should have been granted amnesty in another administration because Article 144 of the Constitution prohibits the granting of amnesty in the same governmental term the offense occurred.

[Begin Medrano recording] For instance, amnesty or a pardon for General Rene Emilio Ponce in the case of the Jesuits' murder would be appropriate after 1994, when the mandate of the Arena party administration is over.

The Constitution is very clear in this respect. Why? There is an explanation; namely, because this is granting amnesty to oneself. [end recording]

Celia Medrano also criticized Supreme Court President Mauricio Gutierrez Castro for not resigning his post despite being mentioned in the Truth Commission report.

Guatemala

Community Leaders Protest Arrests by Army

PA2403025193 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The Communities of Resistant People, CPR, in Quiche Department have reported that the Army has been illegally arresting CPR members in the municipality of Chajul. CPR leaders protested this situation at a news conference held on 23 March.

[Begin unidentified leader recording, broadcast in progress] ...try to arrest members of the community in order to relocate them. We are against this, because we are living on our own land, and we do not want to occupy land belonging to our brothers. Therefore, people have to leave and cross the border. We also know that the Army destroys our possessions. It happened in November 1992, when the Army burned houses, personal belongings, and animals [words indistinct] we are afraid the situation is the same. Right now we do not know if the Army burned all the houses and belongings, because we cannot return because we are afraid. On 3 March [words indistinct] while members of the community were in Mexican territory, four of our brothers and their workers had to get something to feed the children, fruits, and other things. On their way back, four of our brothers were injured by bombs that had been placed by the Army. Three of them were in very critical condition and had to be taken to the hospital in Villa Hermosa, Mexico. [end recording]

Honduras

Callejas Makes No Comment on Money-Laundering Charges

PA2403023393 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Mar 93 p 4

[Text] President Callejas stated on 22 March that he has no information on whether significant "money laundering" exists and added that he does not wish to comment on "charges to that effect."

The president made that statement in response to charges made by former Congress President Carlos Montoya, who said that Honduras is being used by drug traffickers to introduce drug money into the legal market through an activity known as money "laundering."

The chief of state said that according to information from the Central Bank of Honduras, "there is minimal money laundering in the country."

"I do not wish to comment because it is very easy to commit slander, but very difficult to provide names and evidence," he said regarding Montoya's charges.

The president believes that drug-trafficking is not like other topics such as the country's domestic policy, which is usually the target of baseless charges by the opposition.

With drug trafficking the issue is much more complex. If anyone has any information, he should report it directly to Deputy Carlos Sosa Coello, coordinator of the Special Drug Traffic Investigation Commission, the president stated.

Callejas added that if persons do not want to risk using those means, they can send the confidential information to the counternarcotics authorities.

We have no knowledge of an increase in monetary activities in the country. Thus far we have not received any report about money-laundering from national or international sources, he said.

Asked about the definition of a new minimum wage, Callejas said there is a forum made up of business and labor sectors that is discussing the topic. He asked the Labor Ministry and those sectors to advise the executive branch on 31 March of their position on the minimum wage.

The president said he hopes the date will be respected, but until that time the government will not take any action.

The president confirmed that the government authorized the importation of 30,000 quintals of beans, "which will be available at a more accessible price for consumers."

He said he knows the National Federation of Farmers and Cattlemen of Honduras objected to the importation. The topic, however, will be discussed during a meeting held on 23 March with leaders of the organization, as it is a topic that concerns the government.

Callejas Says Government Not To Reduce Military Budget

PA2303215093 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Mar 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Leonardo Callejas stated on 22 March that his government is not planning to cut the Armed Forces budget this year because the amount with which the military institution must operate every fiscal year has already been established.

Callejas was responding to a question on whether public spending cuts ordered for this year included a reduction in the Armed Forces budget. The president recalled that since March 1990 his government has cut the Armed

Forces budget by 10 percent, and that budget has faced an even bigger cut as a result of currency devaluation. When Callejas took office the military budget was almost 300 million lempiras [L], which he cut to L270 million, although an increase of L20 million was later added to pay police salaries, the president noted. Callejas felt it was important to keep in mind that in 1989 the Armed Forces budget was based on the exchange rate of L2 to the dollar, "which means that in dollars the Armed Forces budget for January 1990 was \$137 million." Right now the budget is L274 million, and considering that the exchange rate is L6 to the dollar, the budget adds up to \$45 million in real terms. "That means the military budget has been reduced substantially in real terms," Callejas indicated. According to the president, another key factor is that in the past decade U.S. military aid was over \$70 million, but now that aid is just \$3 million. That is a major reduction, he added. The president indicated that in the adjustment plan prepared for this year's budget, all of the autonomous institutions must reduce their budgets and manage them better.

Nicaragua

Lacayo News Conference on Trip to Washington

PA2403043093 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1811 GMT 23 Mar 93

[News conference by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo with unidentified reporters at the Blue Room of the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Lacayo] Good afternoon friends of the national and international media and brother Nicaraguans who are listening to us.

Before departing for Washington, we said from San Pedro de Lovago that the battle for aid was going to be won. After a week and a half of intense work, I am convinced that Nicaragua has taken important steps toward that goal because a new generation of leaders has reached the White House, and those leaders are deeply committed to noble causes such as ours. We found a clear political commitment to establishing a promising new relationship between Nicaragua and the United States and for drafting a common agenda for the years ahead based on the mutual interests of two peoples who share democratic values, respect for human rights, and the need for development with equality.

In my talks with Deputy Secretary of State Clifton Wharton and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, I found a real commitment to a permanent dialogue with Nicaragua and a great willingness to draft jointly the new U.S. policy toward Nicaragua.

At the end of this busy trip to Washington and New York, which included over 50 working meetings with government officials, senators, congressmen, special interest groups, the OAS and UN secretaries general, and

ambassadors from Latin America, the Caribbean, and other friendly countries, Nicaraguans are closer than ever to enjoying a mutually beneficial relationship of friendship and respect with the United States that will no longer depend on the ups and downs of the governments but on the values we share and that unite us.

That is why I have come here with the goodwill to hold talks with the country's political forces regarding this favorable relationship that is so beneficial for our nation.

I once again reiterate the call I made on behalf of the government from San Pedro de Lovago on 12 March. I invite the National Opposition Union [UNO] political council to hold frank, open talks with the government.

Because the invitation has not yet been answered, we are going to send a written invitation to the aforementioned political council for the record. We hope that for Nicaragua's well-being, they will not reject the opportunity for a dialogue again.

We are also going to hold talks with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and with representatives of businessmen, producers, and workers. We have a commitment to the Constitution and the law, to the state of law and justice, to land title deeds for peasants, and to the return of property or compensation for those whose properties were unfairly confiscated.

We want a commitment from everyone to uproot terrorism, violence, poverty, and unemployment. We want Nicaragua to continue walking the road of peace, reconciliation, and development. We want everyone who wishes to contribute to do so.

We also want those congressmen who have been poorly informed by Nicaraguans living in Miami and by ambitious politicians, who have gone to Washington to discredit Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro, to have an independent viewpoint so they can see for themselves the undeniable progress made by our president in her effort to attain peace, eliminate the draft, demobilize the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], reduce the Army, eliminate hyperinflation, reinstate the right to trade, guarantee freedom of speech and the right to assemble, return properties to their previous owners, hand out lands to demobilized members of the RN and the Army, and investigate the deaths of former contras and Sandinists who have been victims of postwar violence in the past three years.

That is why we have said we welcome any commission, friends of Nicaragua, to come here to see for themselves the untruths told by these liars such as Antonio Ibarra and Alfredo Cesar. They had grown accustomed to living off the CIA and the U.S. taxpayers' money. Now they want to continue that practice, not caring if they harm their nation, their president, and their government. The people know that he who has a clear conscience has nothing to fear. Now those liars are getting their stories mixed up. They swore to tell the truth but instead they have slandered many people. That is why we think that

sooner or later Ibarra will end up in jail here in Nicaragua as a thief or in the United States as a liar.

I want to greet all my fellow countrymen from San Pedro de Lovago. On 12 March they passed on their enthusiasm to me. It has been very useful to me through all these days. When the aid arrives, we will remember them and all those who have supported the cause of liberty and progress fostered in Nicaragua by our president. Thank you.

[Reporter] I would like to know specifically [three-second break in reception] the U.S. aid [six-second break in reception] what is the scope of this commission. Some sectors have already spoken out against the commission saying that it constitutes meddling in the nation's internal affairs. What will the commission's role be and when will it start operating?

[Lacayo] Concerning the suspended 1992 U.S. aid, representatives of the new Clinton administration told us that right now all government agencies are analyzing the policy toward Nicaragua. As I mentioned in my statement, they want to implement a policy for more than one year; that is, a policy for President Clinton's four-year administration. They want to take the disbursement of the delayed \$50 million into account as part of that policy. Based on statements by Deputy Secretary of State Clifton Wharton, I have the feeling that this policy will be in favor of mutual interests as the agenda to be developed is a common agenda. They told us that the Nicaraguan Government's point of view would be very much taken into account in the final design of that policy. Once they conclude their analysis, which I hope will be this week, they will consult congressional leaders to proceed in that direction; that is, toward lifting the ban on aid pending since 1992.

As to the commission of Nicaragua's friends, I understand that here in the country, from the very beginning some media gave this commission a twisted identity. Only a few days ago we had learned the results of another very different commission that had been working in El Salvador known as the Truth Commission. That commission had been investigating incidents that had taken place in El Salvador's past.

Our case is totally different. U.S. congressmen are a bit confused about the data we have given them. On the Army reduction, we told them the Army is now the smallest in Central America. Regarding data on the bipartisan commission's work, we told them the commission is analyzing and [words indistinct] recommendations on the first 10 cases of some RN members who were murdered between 1991 and 1992. About the process to return properties, we told them of the return of the San Antonio Sugar Mill, the Victoria Brewery, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, the [names indistinct] Company, the Perfecta Company, the [name indistinct] Company, the slaughterhouses in [name indistinct] and in Nandaime, coffee plantations, cotton plantations, and tobacco-producing

properties. Nevertheless, Nicaraguans who live in Miami and who are quite misinformed or Nicaraguans who leave here with totally different information from what we have reported have arrived at those same offices in Washington. I would say they have bad intentions rather than that they have bad information. Therefore, these congressmen who are friends of Nicaragua, desirous of helping and hearing—should I say—a truly impartial version, have suggested that representatives of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali or of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares come to our country. We have told them to come, because the sooner they come, the sooner they will see what the government is doing and the better it will be for us [six-minute break in reception] the UN and OAS secretaries general to come to Nicaragua to see what the government is doing and report this progress, which we feel is significant.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a national dialogue [words indistinct] in general. Could you tell us exactly what the agenda would be that could lead us to a dialogue with definite results and bring stability to this nation?

[Lacayo] In conversations where the intention is to make progress among the parties, it is usually best to arrive at the table without any preconditions. That is why the government in its [word indistinct] initiatives regarding the gentlemen from the UNO political parties, President Chamorro had met with them at the end of January and the beginning of February. Various ministers have met with them in February. We have arrived at the negotiating table without any conditions. Nevertheless, any dialogue, any conversation must be based on what is right for all Nicaraguans: the government, political parties, businessmen, workers, men and women, rich and poor. This dialogue must lead to the consolidation of democracy in our country and to the spread of the reconciliation process, of the process of structural adjustment in our economy, and of economic growth along with social equality. That is what our president named the Solidarity Activation Project for 1993. We believe we can make progress with the political parties interested in democracy by uniting around the rejection of terrorism; the rejection of violence; the rejection of armed civilians who are assaulting farms; and the need for social development, justice, and democracy in a state of law. [passage omitted]

[Lacayo] As for the military law, we also informed U.S. Government authorities that with the support of the Spanish Government, which has been cooperating in this matter and which will cooperate in the next few weeks, Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro will submit a bill to the National Assembly to reorganize the military. The bill sets time limits for top Army posts, as was done last year for the National Police by presidential decree. However, because the Army is regulated by military legislation, the law will have to be passed by the National Assembly. Mrs. Violeta Chamorro will send the bill to the National Assembly soon.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] we have not yet seen the new U.S. ambassador in Nicaragua. The third question is: When would this Nicaraguan [word indistinct] commission begin working and what will its duties be? Thank you.

[Lacayo] Excuse me, what was the last part of your question?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] when would it begin working and what would its duties be?

[Lacayo] Regarding the first part of your question, I believe it is important to note that there is a new government in the United States. It came into power only two months ago. They have a new government from a political party that has been out of power for the past 12 years. This was the first official meeting between our government with that new government, and I am optimistic because I believe the aid will come. I think that is the way they look at it. We are not talking about the Bush administration or the administration of another president. We are talking about new people who have clearly told us their intentions toward Nicaragua. The aid is not conditional upon dialogue with anybody. They understand Mrs. Violeta Chamorro's commitment to a dialogue. I took along the letters she sent to the UNO deputies at the National Assembly on 12 January and their reply rejecting a dialogue. I also took along the letter she sent in late January and their reply refusing to participate in a dialogue. I also took along the statements I made in San Pedro de Lovago, where I made a call for an open dialogue. This new administration knows about the government's continuous commitment to holding talks. That is why we reiterated that commitment to dialogue on 23 March. The aid, however, is not conditional upon a dialogue, and that must be made very clear so things are not misinterpreted.

About the ambassador, in the meeting we held with the State Department on 17 March, Cristiana [Lacayo's wife and Violeta Chamorro's daughter], on behalf of Mrs. Violeta Chamorro, personally told Deputy Secretary of State Wharton that Mrs. Violeta Chamorro wanted to have a new U.S. ambassador here just as Nicaragua had already appointed a new ambassador to Washington, Dr. Roberto Mayorga. On 22 March the United States requested approval for Mr. John Maisto to be the new U.S. ambassador in Nicaragua.

I had the opportunity to meet him in the United States. He is very anxious to work in Nicaragua. He is a career official in the State Department. In September he carried out a mission assigned to him, but under this new administration he has new instructions that he will gladly follow. We think he will be a very good ambassador.

I want to make the following explanation about the commission: This was an initiative of Congressman Smith and Congressman Livingston, which we gladly accepted. We expressed our concern to OAS Secretary Baena Soares on 22 March, and I personally conveyed it

to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in a meeting with him in New York on 22 March. Many people knew about this and wanted to see what could be done. There is an awareness of Nicaragua's progress in all fields. They said a commission was not necessary, but we said we thought it was appropriate so the congressmen would see that we are open to any visit and any friendly investigation of the topics on which we are working. For instance, I say that the Nicaraguan Army has fewer men than the Honduran Army, but they simply do not believe it. The information they have received is that the Army is in command here and that the Army members have not been reduced. We know that truth is on our side. You know how many retired officers are in the streets of Managua having difficulties finding a job. Many people in the United States do not think it is true because many people have gone there to say it is not true. We want the matter to be cleared up as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Minister, members of the Christian Democratic Union [UDC] said this morning that the \$50 million in aid from the United States is not so basic for the country's economic development because it is only momentary aid and in three months Nicaragua will have to seek aid again in other countries. The UDC believes it could turn Nicaragua into a movement of international public charity. They say the government should find a solution to the political crisis. We want to know your opinion on that.

[Lacayo] We agree with the UDC that \$50 million is not the country's solution. The solution lies here among Nicaraguans. The solution is here, working from sunrise to sunset, as this government has said for a long time. The solution is here, casting party and personal positions aside and dedicating oneself to working for Nicaragua. That is the solution. There are many Nicaraguans who favor the solution to work and to produce.

I visited San Pedro Lobago on 12 March and I saw young bulls being sold in the agricultural fair. The bulls belonged to Commander Ruben, who was demobilized, received land from the government, and is working that land. He was exhibiting bulls he had for sale. That is the fruit of his labors. Those are the things that are not frequently published because the good things are often forgotten. There are thousands of Nicaraguans who, like him, are working and are interested in solving the country's situation. However, I do think it is important what the United States decides on the \$50 million because the aid for 1992 is accompanied by the political will to disburse aid for 1993 and the allocations and aid earmarked for 1994 and 1995. As I said previously, the U.S. Government is engaged in a policy that involves more than one year. It is not a policy on whether to disburse the withheld aid, but a policy on what its relations with Violeta Chamorro's administration will be like for the next four years. Mrs. Violeta Chamorro's mandate ends on the same day and month as President Clinton's mandate in January 1997. They have a great opportunity to carry out the common agenda I spoke

about. They can develop this agenda as friendly countries over the next four years. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What will Nicaragua's position be on Antonio Ibarra's case, bearing in mind that he is a U.S. citizen? What will Nicaragua [words indistinct] the United States in this case? What specific measures will the Nicaraguan Government adopt, like the ones adopted in September 1992, if the suspension of U.S. aid continues [words indistinct]?

[Lacayo] We have reasserted to the U.S. Government what the foreign minister had already stated through the embassy: We want the United States to help us extradite Mr. Antonio Ibarra to Nicaragua. He has no case pending in the United States, but he must face justice here. He was charged by former Comptroller General [Guillermo] Potoy in 1992. A lawsuit was later filed against him by Attorney General [Guillermo] Vargas Sandino, and he was found guilty by the Eighth District Court in September. Ibarra has a case pending here so he must return to defend himself and either prove he is innocent or go to jail. We have asked the United States to help us bring him here.

The answer to your second question is no, we are definitely not thinking about adopting measures. As I said before, we feel optimistic, even happy, about our meetings at the U.S. State Department and the White House. We are happy about the attitude adopted by Democratic legislators, who represent the majority in Congress. We are even happy about the attitude adopted by the Republican legislators we met. When we presented information on Nicaragua they realized someone had been manipulating and deceiving them, and they are now eager to receive additional information. We believe that within that context, the United States will firmly support Nicaragua from now on. [passage omitted]

Embassy Occupiers Arrive in Santo Domingo

PA2303153993 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Santo Domingo—The National Department of Investigations [DNI] is investigating the two anti-Sandinists who arrived on 22 March in Santo Domingo from Costa Rica where they had held 24 people hostage at the Nicaraguan Embassy, security sources reported.

Upon their arrival at the airport in Santo Domingo, Jose Maria Urbina Lara, chief of the Yolaina anti-Sandinist commando unit, and his comrade, Guillermo Arsenio Oporta Reyes, were taken in DNI vehicles to the DNI central offices.

The Dominican Government granted provisional visas to the two anti-Sandinists so they could remain in the country under DNI protection. This arrangement facilitated the end of the 13-day hostage situation at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose.

On 23 March, ULTIMA HORA reported that even though the Dominican Government, based on a decision by President Joaquin Balaguer, granted asylum to the two Nicaraguans, the action will immediately become a source of contention among the people. Many Dominicans feel that the two kidnappers, who requested millions of dollars in their negotiations but received only thousands of dollars, are nothing more than vulgar international criminals.

Newspaper Reports on Fate of Embassy Occupiers

PA2303233693 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Mar 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Aura Lila Moreno]

[Text] At least three of the individuals who occupied the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose either never left the country or have returned to Costa Rica, said Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta after pointing out that preliminary reports had stated that Jose Urbina Lara and his group never intended to enter Nicaragua.

A Costa Rican Public Security Ministry MI-17 helicopter on 21 March took the three occupiers to the Nicaraguan border from where they would allegedly go to New Guinea, but "I believe these individuals must have returned to Costa Rica by now," Mendieta said.

Mendieta said Engineer Alfonso Robelo's family, not the government, gave the occupiers \$250,000. Mendieta added that his institution is perfecting control and security mechanisms at each of Nicaragua's embassies to avoid further terrorist actions.

Mendieta and Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais on 22 March gave a news conference to discuss the results of their negotiations with the armed group that for 13 days occupied the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose and held almost all of the diplomatic personnel hostage.

The government minister commented that "from a moral and police viewpoint," Robelo did not participate in any way in the embassy occupation. Mendieta, commenting on his perception of Robelo when he visited the embassy, said he could see the "suffering on his face." Mendieta also said that on the day Robelo was released, "he told me he could not have stood another day."

Even though the government has publicly stated on various occasions that it dismisses any possibility of ties between the Nicaraguan ambassador and the occupiers, the fact is that according to a government source, Robelo is expected to resign at any moment; otherwise he will be "resigned" once the embassy issue "cools down."

Pallais and Mendieta both confirmed that during the negotiations with the occupiers the de jure state and the Constitution were unharmed because no political demands were made. Nevertheless, they justified giving the occupiers a quarter of a million dollars by saying they had to display "some degree of flexibility."

The Robelo family understood that the government could not allow itself to be blackmailed, Mendieta said. Fabio Robelo, the ambassador's brother, was in charge of directly delivering the \$250,000 to Winston Betanco, one of Cardenal Miguel Obando y Bravo's advisers, who in turn gave the money to Jose Manuel Urbina Lara.

"During the negotiations we gradually discovered that Urbina Lara's intention was to obtain money, not political goals," Mendieta said. Deputy Foreign Minister Pallais said the embassy occupation did not do the country any political damage at an international level. "The only ones who suffer political damage are the terrorists who perpetrate such actions and those who shelter them," he said.

Mendieta reaffirmed that the occupiers did have some ties with certain political sectors in Nicaragua, even though those sectors were aware of the long criminal records of Urbina Lara and another of the occupiers named Arsenio Oporta Reyes.

Among the charges listed in the group leader's lengthy criminal record, Mendieta mentioned the accusations of robbing and assaulting a Costa Rican taxi driver, disrespecting authorities in that neighboring country, and defending drug trafficker Erwin Garcia Garcia, also a member of the "Yolaina Commando."

Mendieta denied that the three individuals who occupied Radio Mundial have been released as a result of negotiations with the occupiers. "We made no compromises for pardons or amnesty," Mendieta asserted, adding that the criminal responsibilities of those individuals must be settled by the judges.

The situation of the Nicaraguan terrorists who were taken to the Dominican Republic after being dislodged from the embassy in Costa Rica is still uncertain. They only have "tourist" visas, which are no guarantee for criminals.

EL NUEVO DIARIO telephoned Santo Domingo's EL CARIBE newspaper and was told that the Foreign Ministry is studying the options it can offer the kidnappers.

Journalist Miguel Febles of EL CARIBE said Jose Manuel Urbina Lara and his crony Guillermo Oporta arrived at the international airport at dawn, thus the pair of clowns did receive the media coverage they would have liked.

Other information from the Dominican Republic quoted Dominican Foreign Minister Juan Aristides Taveras Guzman as saying that the terrorists have not been granted political asylum as had been reported.

The government official said the kidnappers have a regular visa, although he did not indicate the expiration date. He did stress, however, that the mediating role his nation played when it agreed to receive the criminals is a gesture of solidarity with the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican presidents.

The foreign minister said Urbina Lara and his crony should "avail themselves of the hospitality that the Dominican Republic and its people have offered them based on the right to asylum." Nevertheless, there are rumors in Santo Domingo that both individuals could be arrested by the authorities.

Dominican reporters told EL NUEVO DIARIO that upon the kidnappers' arrival at the international airport in a twin-engine plane of Costa Rican registry, they were whisked off to the National Directorate of Investigations (DNI), the nation's highest intelligence institution.

The kidnappers then had to make statements before DNI officials, who later took them to an undisclosed location.

Meanwhile, peacefulness returned to San Jose at the conclusion of the embassy takeover, but Public Security Minister Luis Fishman assured that he will ask for Urbina Lara's extradition to try him for the crimes committed in Costa Rica.

Paper Discloses Government's Agreement With Kidnappers

PA2303200893 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
23 Mar 93 p 12

[Text] The agreement signed with the Yolaina Command and obtained by BARRICADA considers the following commitments:

1. The Government of Nicaragua commits itself to release the four persons arrested as a result of the events that took place at Radio Mundial in Managua.
2. The government will guarantee the freedom and personal safety of (Jose Manuel) Urbina Lara, who will be able to present in Nicaragua any charges of human rights before any of the existing commissions.
3. The government commits itself to make efforts during 1993 for obtaining with friendly countries a minimum of \$6 million for developing social programs with groups from both sides affected by the war. These funds will be administrated by and supervised by Cardinal Miguel Obando. In the meantime, and in addition to, the Cardinal or persons appointed by him will supervise all of the planned social programs that will be implemented in 1993 that call for more than \$6 million, as included in the General Budget of the Republic. [sentence as published]
4. The representatives of the Government of Nicaragua will deliver \$250,000 to the Patriotic Brigades.
5. The Government of Nicaragua, together with the Government of Costa Rica, commit themselves to intercede before the government of any foreign country chosen by Mr. Urbina Lara to accept him with the necessary guarantees.

Cardinal Miguel Obando, in his capacity of mediator, certifies that these are the points agreed in this document. [issued] San Jose, 20 March 1993.

Official Comments on Radio Station Occupiers

PA2303161893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Bernard Pallais Arana commented on the negotiations held with Jose Maria Urbina Lara, leader of the kidnappers who took over the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica. Pallais Arana said that Urbina Lara discussed the takeover of Radio Mundial and the possibility of amnesty or pardons for the occupiers of the radio station.

The deputy foreign minister added that the members of the government delegation told Urbina Lara that they could not do anything about that, as this was a specific responsibility of the government.

[Begin Pallais Arana recording] Concerning the individuals who participated in the occupation of Radio Mundial, Mr. Urbina Lara requested pardons or amnesty for these individuals. We flatly rejected his request, because the government does not want this to happen again. I told them that I personally was a member of the Tripartite Commission that was working on the issue that impunity should be brought to a halt. I explained that this would be a case of impunity, and therefore, we could not agree to his request.

We do not have any commitment of amnesty for these men, and their criminal responsibility must be established by the judges in Nicaragua, who are handling this case in Managua.

Furthermore, I personally feel that the attorney general should now investigate this request made by Urbina Lara to determine if there is any complicity between the kidnappers and the individuals who took over the radio station. That is my very personal opinion, and I repeat, there is no commitment on the part of the Nicaraguan Government for exonerating them from their responsibility. [end recording]

Boaco Mayor Explains Reasons for Resignation

PA2303224693 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Mar 93 pp 1, 8

[Article by Mario Sanchez P.]

[Excerpts] Boaco Mayor Armando Incer Barquero, who became one of the main leaders of the extremist Let's Save Democracy Civic Movement, resigned his post on 18 March. Incer Barquero said he made the decision, which the people of Boaco consider "untimely," because "I am a doctor, not a politician," and besides, "it is time for me to go home and leave my office."

Nonetheless, sources close to the municipal committee of the disjointed National Opposition Union [UNO] and the local municipal council told EL NUEVO DIARIO that the mayor was constantly pressured by extremist groups that felt "the last straw" was the nice welcome the mayor gave President Violeta Barrios and Presidency

Minister Antonio Lacayo when they visited the city 15 days ago during the celebrations of UNO's electoral victory in Camoapa.

In addition, there were conflicts over the municipality's most important posts among council members of the former UNO who now belong to the various political trends and parties within the same group. After three years of constant pressure, the exhausted mayor could not take it any longer and was forced to resign.

EL NUEVO DIARIO interviewed the former mayor on 22 March in his home in front of the Jose Nieborowski Park in Boaco. When asked why he had resigned and if there had been any pressure, he smiled and said: "No one exerted any pressure, nor is there any political reason."

He added that he had thought about the matter a long time before announcing his decision on 18 March. "These were three years of intense work, because a mayor has much activity, work, and commitments." [passage omitted]

He also rejected that his decision was abrupt. "It was not a sudden decision. It was the result of economic difficulties and other problems that did not allow me to implement my plans for the community. Poverty held me back. I could not do what the people are demanding. That is very sad."

He also rejected that he was pressured to resign because he does not want to confront the executive branch or because of internal conflicts within UNO and the Mayor's Office. "There was no such pressure. I do not like to confront anyone, because nothing is ever gained by that." [passage omitted]

He also explained that he will continue in his post until May, when he will turn it over to Dr. Jaime Hernandez, who was elected mayor by the Municipal Council on the same day that Incer Barquero resigned. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Government Has Economic Contingency Plan

PA2303210493 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
23 Mar 93 p 5

[Text] Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, coordinator of the economic cabinet, said on 22 March that Violeta Chamorro's government has contingency plans to deal with the delay in the disbursement of U.S. aid. Pereira's remarks followed an "emergency" cabinet meeting with President Chamorro.

Although Pereira said that the main topic discussed was the end of the occupation of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica, the delayed U.S. aid issue was also discussed to some extent.

In brief statements to local reporters, Pereira said that last year scheduled aid was also withheld from Nicaragua

(\$100 million retained due to Jesse Helms' objections) and at present \$50 million are being withheld. "We must be a little more specific" when the Consultative Group meets in Paris in early April, Pereira said.

In contrast to last October, when the government decided to raise the General Value Tax, increasing it from 10 to 15 percent when it found out that Washington would not disburse the \$100 million, Pereira expressed hope that this time it will not be necessary to raise taxes or devalue the currency.

He said the government will try to find ways to obtain needed reserves, and one way may be to accelerate the privatization of large companies such as the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute, thereby creating even "cushion reserves."

In an attempt to promote optimism, Pereira said "we have funds and reserves" to work as we have done thus far and to enable the country to hold out until June "without any problems."

He admitted that the \$45 million stop-gap loan offered by the Group of Three (Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia) has not yet been granted. He said, however, that the presidents of the three countries' central banks may reach an agreement at the Inter-American Development Bank's annual meeting in April.

Acting Presidency Minister Jose Adan Guerra confirmed that the embassy occupation issue was, in fact, discussed at the 22 March cabinet meeting. "The government acted very well, closely following President Chamorro's instructions, exhaustive dialogue, and preserving the hostages' lives."

He insisted that no political concessions were made to terrorist Urbina Lara.

Asked if the terrorists managed to make at least a propagandist impact, Guerra said "it is not the same to do things in one's own backyard as in someone else's."

Guerra insisted that the creation of the "Information Commission"—which would be formed by the United Nations, OAS, and a bipartisan delegation from the U.S. Congress—"would be on invitation by the government. It will not be a copy of other models, nor will it be a grand jury that will judge the entire world."

He said that the details regarding this commission will be established once the presidency minister returns from the United States on 23 March.

Tripartite Commission Reportedly Accuses Officers

PA2303133693 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
22 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Juan Carlos Sarmiento and Roberto Larios]

[Text] Military and police leaders and Sandinist leaders of Regions One and Six are named in a report drafted by the Tripartite Commission, which is comprised of representatives of the government, International Commission of Support and Verification, and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. The report blames them for having masterminded crimes committed by recontras, a source that had access to the commission's report told BARRICADA.

The report, which remained secret until now, was presented to the government by commission members. Our source adds the report recommends the immediate dismissal for "negligence" of Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigo Gonzalez and Major Juan Alberto Molinares of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], and of Subcommander Roberto Gonzalez of the police.

Sources that have followed the work of the Tripartite Commission told BARRICADA it "has overstepped its duties" by recommending the officers' removal.

The commission's mandate did not include recommending anyone's dismissal. Their mandate was to present the results of their study to President Violeta Chamorro who would in turn order the courts to make the corresponding investigations and trials.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Bernard Pallias, who serves as the government representative, had committed himself expressly to this mandate. It has been said he traveled to Washington to present the report not only to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares but also to the U.S. Government.

Pallias has so far commented on an initial and partial version of the report without providing many details on the alleged recommendations it contains.

The government reportedly started to implement the report's recommendations a few days ago, and according to one of our sources, five police officers were reportedly dismissed, stripped of their ranks, and jailed but not tried yet.

Another source said actually two policemen were arrested one of whom was already freed and the other about to be freed because of health reasons.

Other officers on the "black list" reportedly include an Army captain surnamed Zanabria; Lieutenant Jose Vega Laguna, the Waslala police chief; and former EPS Captains Carlos Gonzalez and Julio Casco Jiron, who was seriously wounded when unidentified individuals traveling in a vehicle shot him in Dario on the evening of 18 March.

The Tripartite Commission's accusations also touch Sandinist leaders such as Leonel Ortiz, who was kidnapped two years ago by a recontra group in Waslala, and former recontra leaders, including those known by the aliases of Caminante, Marino, and Richard, who demobilized in February 1992.

Our informant said in Matagalpa "everything seems to indicate the Tripartite Commission intends to become a sort of Truth Commission such as the one that investigated crimes in El Salvador and bring to trial those mentioned in the report.

Should that be the case, the commission would be overstepping its duties for assuming duties of the Judicial Branch.

The Tripartite Commission, however, also lashes out at the Judicial Branch because its "recommendations" include the need to make changes within that branch. The commission "casts doubt over its judgment" for alleged poor administration of justice.

* Nepotism, Government Business Ties Reported

93P40105A Managua EL NICARAGUENSE in Spanish
4 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] In view of the military takeover of the National Assembly, which has seriously damaged the country's institutions and the independence of state powers, and in view of the cabinet appointments made by President Chamorro on Sunday, 10 January 1993, we must point out the new circumstances taking hold with a view toward confirming the accusations made by the country's democratic forces against the Chamorro government. The new cabinet reflects three basic components:

1. Nepotism has been consolidated in the government.
2. Cogovernment with the Sandinist Front has been consolidated.
3. Business ties between ministers and Antonio Lacayo have been consolidated.

First of all, nepotistic ties within the government, which have been in place ever since the start of the Barrios Chamorro administration, have been strengthened. There are clear examples: Husbands and wives are cabinet members and hold ministerial rank, while cousins of ministers dabble in vice-minister posts.

Thus, in the Ministry of Health: Martha Palacios Fernandez of noted FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] affiliation was appointed minister of health. She is also married to Economy Minister Pablo Pereira, a former Sandinist Army official, who is in turn related to Finance Minister Emilio Pereira. Vice Minister of Health Dr. Federico Munoz is the cousin of Minister Martha Palacios Fernandez de Pereira. But that is not all: In the same Ministry of Health, appointed as adviser to the minister is Mrs. Milu Vargas, who is the sister of Minister Martha Palacios Fernandez and the widow of former FSLN National Directorate member Carlos Nunez Tellez. The other vice minister of health is Ignacio Velez Lacayo, cousin of Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. Regarding the latter appointment we should point out that Mr. Ignacio Lacayo was formerly director of Enabas [National Enterprise for Staple Foods] and was involved in several corruption cases. Furthermore, he is a veterinarian. (A vice minister of veterinary health—that is the last straw!)

In the Ministry of Agriculture we have the following: Minister Roberto Rondon Sacasa is the cousin of Vice Minister Jorge Granera Sacasa. Both men are cousins of Social Action Minister William Baez Sacasa. All three are related to President Barrios Chamorro.

In the National Institute for Agrarian Reform (INRA): INRA Vice Minister Alvaro Fiallos Oyanguren, prominent director of UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], is the cousin of Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren and the brother of Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, president of the Supreme Electoral Council.

The INAA [Nicaraguan Waterworks and Sewer Systems Institute] director is Milton Caldera Cardenal [as published], who is the cousin of Dayton Caldera, Cornap [National Corporation of the Public Sector] director, and is related by marriage to Antonio Lacayo.

We note the following in the Ministry of Social Action: Minister William Baez Sacasa is the cousin of Agriculture Minister Roberto Rondon Sacasa and Vice Minister Jorge Granera Sacasa. His wife, Regina Oyanguren Castillo, is the cousin of Antonio Lacayo and the niece of the former FSLN Justice Minister Tito Castillo, who stirs unpleasant memories among Nicaraguans.

Secondly, the other basic features of the new cabinet are the Sandinist cadres on one hand, and, on the other, FSLN control of the National Assembly. The following Sandinist cadres are cabinet members:

Tourism Minister: Fernando Guzman Cuadra, noted FSLN militant and high-ranking member of the former Sandinist government.

INRA: Vice Minister Alvaro Fiallos Oyanguren, noted leader of UNAG, the FSLN producers association.

Ministry of Finance: Vice Minister of Finance Rene Vallecillo Quiroz, active and high-ranking FSLN member.

Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE): INE Minister Emilio Rapaccioli, an open FSLN militant.

INE: Otto Schaffer, INE vice minister [as published], also a recognized militant and former FSLN officer.

FSLN slots are also growing in lower positions, replacing UNO [National Opposition Union] leaders. Something similar is taking place in the National Assembly: The first vice president is Sandinist, thus giving up one more position to the FSLN governing board. An adviser to the Sandinist bench has been named executive director of the National Assembly, and many Sandinist Front members are replacing UNO members.

In third place, business ties have been strengthened between the ministers and Antonio Lacayo. Most of the ministers are partners or work for Antonio Lacayo in the many businesses formed in the shadow of Mrs.

Chamorro's power and the Front "nongovernment." Thus seven cabinet members are Antonio Lacayo's business partners.

Vigil [Pablo Vigil Icaza]: partner, Minister of Construction and Transportation. Julio Cardenas: partner, former minister of economy, now economic adviser to the Presidency. Jose Evenor Taboada: partner, Nicaragua Central Bank president.

Fernando Guzman: partner, minister of tourism. Alfredo Ortega Urbina: partner, ambassador to Brazil. Also, Finance Minister Emilio Pereira and Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta have improved their political positions by forming business ties with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. We can therefore conclude: UNO can no longer be a progovernment party; it is rather an opposition party and should conduct itself as one. The Sandinist Front has removed its mask and has become a progovernment party in defense of nepotism, corruption, the property giveaway, and all the lapses and vices which the Nicaraguan people have been fighting against for over 50 years.

Once again we must say God save Nicaragua from these new Attilas of government.

Panama

Device Explodes at National Passport Directorate

PA2403044793 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0420 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] Dear listeners, we interrupt our normal schedule to broadcast a last minute report: A device placed inside an automobile exploded on the evening of 23 March in front of the National Passport Directorate. The explosion occurred a few minutes ago, and it was heard in several areas of the city. There were no casualties, but the automobile in which the device was placed sustained considerable damage.

Mercedes Garcia de Villalaz, director of the National Passport Directorate, arrived at the site of the explosion with other government officials and the Judicial Technical Police members who are investigating the attack.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] You know this is part of the plan to sow terror everywhere. I think we are working hard at the National Passport Directorate, but we may be stepping on a lot of toes. We do not care about threats; we will continue to work hard. Excuse me. [end recording]

Endara Favors Political Amnesty, Not 'Blanket Amnesty'

PA2303155793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 23 Mar 93 p 3a

[Report by Juan M. Diaz and Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany expressed on 22 March his disagreement over granting a blanket amnesty and believes that this measure should only apply to people charged with political crimes.

Endara stated that those people charged with "blood" crimes, embezzlement, or violating human rights, should not be allowed to benefit from an amnesty that would leave their crimes unpunished.

"I agree with reconciliation," but only through political amnesty, Endara said. He declined to reply if he would veto a general pardon when submitted to the Executive Branch.

High-level Legislative Branch sources disclosed to EL PANAMA AMERICA that after discussing the draft resolution on transportation, which is now under debate at the Legislative Assembly, the Panamanian parliament will discuss the General Amnesty law.

Legislative Assembly Vice President Alberto Cigarruista, of the Authentic Liberal Party, said that it will be the assembly's plenum that will decide if an amnesty will be granted.

According to the legislator an amnesty will make the 1994 elections peaceful.

This legislative debate should determine who will benefit from the amnesty, Cigarruista said, "because we should not leave the door open for bad Panamanians who do not deserve it."

A recent poll showed that most Panamanians favor the idea that the government propose an amnesty to free 53 people charged with crimes committed during the military dictatorship.

Arnulfistas Leaders Meet To 'Seek Unity'

PA2303153393 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Mar 93 p 26

[Article By Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] In a meeting held on the evening of 22 March, the National Board of Directors and the Advisory Board of the Arnulfist Party [PA] agreed to seek unity in the face of the upcoming national convention, which is aimed at strengthening the infrastructure of the party.

PA President Mireya Moscoso de Gruber asserted that there is consensus to repeal temporary articles from the regulations and fill the vacancies in the Board of Directors.

Mireya Moscoso de Gruber stated that "this meeting among fellow party members resulted in the strengthening of the party."

Meanwhile, Legislator Francisco Artola said that the meeting is the preamble of the national PA convention, which will be held in Boquete, Chiriqui Province, where former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid resided.

Artola expressed that the convention will be held in Boquete to honor its residents, since previous conventions have been held in the Provinces of Cocle, Veraguas, and Colon.

Artola explained that the objective of the meeting held on 22 March was to discuss the modifications to the party's regulations in order to adapt them to the new circumstances the party is experiencing, prior to the 1994 elections.

According to Artola, no time can be wasted to accomplish this task, because the elimination of the juridical limitations of the party is a priority.

Mexico To Open Financial Markets Through Negotiations

PA2303232993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1859 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Panama City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Mexican Ambassador Ignacio Gutierrez Pita reported on 23 March that Mexico will open its financial markets to Panama through a negotiation process aimed at settling the country's \$115 million oil debt with Mexico.

"It is essential that we solve the problem because Panama adopted the unilateral decision to discontinue paying its debt with Mexico four years ago," Gutierrez Pita said in an interview with ACAN-EFE.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega's military government decided to suspend payments of its oil debt with Mexico in 1989, due to an internal political crisis and the economic blockade imposed by the United States, all of which led to the 20 December invasion ordered by Washington.

The Mexican ambassador explained Panama's debt was acquired as a result of the "San Jose Pact," through which crude oil is offered to Panama, Central America, and the Caribbean based on advantageous customs and economic conditions.

Jose Angel Gurria, director of the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico, explained on 10 March in Panama the implementation of a plan to help this and other "San Jose Pact" signatory countries settle their oil debt.

The ambassador said that in Panama's specific case, his government has mentioned the possibility of "turning liabilities into productive assets."

"This means that if the Panamanian Government owns certain zones it wants to develop with infrastructure projects, we can study the possibility of allowing Mexican businessmen to participate," Gutierrez Pita said.

The ambassador mentioned his country's interest in developing tourism, transportation, highway, energy, telecommunications, and other types of projects in seven

years, when Panama will receive the canal and large areas of land that are currently administered by the United States.

Military facilities, houses, and buildings located in areas near the canal, which the United States must revert to Panama according to a treaty signed in 1977, have a value in excess of \$40 billion.

Panama currently has no access to Mexican financial markets.

Mexico has launched a political program of cooperation and understanding with Central America in order to offer payment facilities and open credit in favor of those nations, the diplomat stated.

Argentina

Defense Minister Meets With Minister-Designate

PY2303215493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2052 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 March (NA)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today briefed Oscar Camilion, the defense minister-designate, on the current situation in the defense sphere. He presented "an objective analysis of all current problems," adding that "there is no restlessness or discontent" within the Armed Forces arising from their wage claims.

Camilion held a private meeting with Gonzalez at the Defense Ministry at noon. The minister-designate then reported that they "discussed highly relevant defense issues, including the defense budget and the participation of Argentine contingents in peacekeeping forces."

During an impromptu news conference after the meeting, Camilion said that they also broached "the subject of the technological development of the Armed Forces and other organizational matters pertaining to military personnel."

Asked about potential "discontent" within the Armed Forces due to their wage claims, Camilion merely said that Gonzalez "presented an objective analysis of current problems" confronting the Defense Ministry.

He added: "He did not confirm the presence of unrest or discontent within the Armed Forces."

Camilion then conceded that "budgetary questions constitute the most difficult hurdle for any minister," because "resources are always scarce compared with what is needed."

Commenting on the restructuring of the Army undertaken by Gonzalez, Camilion said that it was necessary "to give the matter more careful consideration" before going ahead with the policy implemented by the current defense minister, adding that its continuity "is inextricably linked to financial matters."

Camilion continued: "The cost of every restructuring project must be defrayed and we must find the financial resources to meet them."

As for privatizations in the area of defense, Camilion stated that "we must go ahead with the privatization plans" launched by the current administration "because they are part of the government's guidelines."

Camilion, a former UN representative to Cyprus, considers it "unlikely" that the UK Government will officially inform the Argentine Government about the investigation that Scotland Yard is conducting into the alleged execution of Argentine soldiers on the Malvinas Islands during the 1982 war.

Camilion stated: "There is nothing official, however, but we must continue to investigate this issue until we know

what happened. It is up to them to decide if a crime was committed by transgressing British criminal law."

If common crimes were committed, like the charges of executions leveled by noncommissioned British officer Vincent Bramley, it would mean "there was an infringement of British criminal code. In that case they would have to decide whether to charge the alleged criminals."

Camilion, who was foreign minister during the military regime [March-December 1981] when General Roberto Viola was president of the three-man junta, said that is unlikely that the British "will explicitly consider the subject of executions as a bilateral issue with Argentina."

Camilion explained the need to seriously reconsider sending Argentine contingents as part of peacekeeping forces to other countries of the world "due to the great expense and UN payment arrears."

He stated: "Peacekeeping operations are urgent, while the process of sending money—voluntary and mandatory contributions—takes time," thus alluding to the arrears in payments by the United Nations for trips by several Argentine contingents to Croatia.

Camilion denied rumors that he has appointed Vicente Massot as deputy defense minister and that he intends to introduce significant changes in the Defense Ministry. He said that "the same administration is in office."

Camilion anticipates meeting with Gonzalez several times before 5 April, when he is to be installed as defense minister.

Navy Chief Cited on Atlantic Strategic Policy

PY2303234893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0058 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA)—Navy Chief Admiral Jose Ferrer said today that military power "is gradually being aimed more at imposing or preserving peace and less at making war." He identifies "the undeniable responsibility of military force in international cooperation."

Ferrer says that "order and stability in this sphere will depend on the degree of international aid, and the possibility of exploiting the seas will basically depend on the technological know-how of the participants."

These concepts are contained in a document entitled: "The Argentine [El Strategic Policy for the Atlantic] Atlantico en el Pensamiento Estrategico Argentino] which is published by the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI).

Ferrer says: "The classic earth-sea [tierra-mar] perspective leads also to an inversed perspective, that of sea-earth. This does not simply involve turning the map over; it involves another level of understanding and another perspective of the forces that are to be applied."

He adds: "The occupation and modern use of the sea lead us to a new political order with a new and special interaction among the participants and the factors of its complex scenario."

He continues: "Concerned over the uncertainty of the complex nature of new conflicts, some preconceived future situations can only be accepted as probable," among which he cites the International Convention on the Rights of the Sea "which represents a forum of growing importance."

Ferrer predicts that the law on the use and exploitation of the sea "will feature a strong humanitarian content," adding that there will be a new order based on open international cooperation." [no opening quotation mark as received]

He predicts "the extremely tough probability of a lambasting by future generations for those societies that are unable to guarantee their protagonism," because "a maritime era has begun in which everything that concerns the seas and oceans magnifies their impact."

The Navy commander stresses the need to "explain the difference between a land border and a maritime border," because "a maritime border is a more elaborate intellectual concept that requires a three-dimensional perception of several all-embracing plans."

In his document, Ferrer says that "the most developed nations understand that it is not enough to cling to territorial seas and exclusive economic zones; it is essential to research and cooperate in all areas." He says that this does not mean "a mere expansionist movement, it means complete mutual cooperation."

He states: "In these economic zones there is a national responsibility, undeniable to the international community, like the emerging international capacity to meddle in the exploitation of superfluous living resources that are considered necessary for the good of the community."

He adds that cooperation is "extremely valuable" and that order and stability in these zones "depend on the degree of international aid while the ability to exploit depends on the technological capacity of the protagonists."

Within this framework, he urges everyone to agree on "maritime research and assistance, the protection of human life at sea, and oceanographic information." He stresses the need to expand national interest "toward projection, where states decide to become protagonists in the defense of world values."

Ferrer predicts that military power "will increasingly seek to impose and maintain peace and not make war," and for this reason "military strategy will become less coercive, with deterrence and preventive foreign policy becoming the new decisive factors."

He says: "The idea of representing the role of the Armed Forces in a triangle is gaining consensus at a world level: military action, diplomatic action, and that that represents the concept of a permanent guarantee in the overall security of the seas."

Finally, Admiral Ferrer lists the new functions of the Navy, among which he cites that of "exercising responsibilities and of ensuring respect for the liberties established in the international law for each area, guaranteeing protection for national ocean resources, and guaranteeing protection for the ecosystem."

Ferrer highlights "the protection of life and the development of human involvement in the seas, frank protagonism with a sense of international cooperation, the promotion of scientific research, and the exercise of a national multinational projection."

Correction to Menem Announces Reform Bill

WA2403161793

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Menem Announces Political Party Reform Bill," published in the 23 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 14.

Column two, third complete paragraph, last sentence, make read: "...among other personalities. When Menem got involved with political issues, he said the government "plans to reform the political party system to give greater participation to citizens and greater sovereignty to the people." He said: "This project will permit open and simultaneous elections to allow society to choose the most capable."

He added: "This means internal elections will be held the same day in all political parties, and the individual who wants to vote in an internal election can do it without the need to be affiliated with the party. The only thing required will be for the individual not to have voted in another internal election that day."

He also said that the political reform project includes the elimination of the "single list" to introduce the uninominal vote.

Menem added: "We want citizens to elect freely, to cross out the candidate he does not like, and to include another candidate even from another party."

Menem also announced that "the possibility of including in the reform the vote for youths at 16 years of age is under study."

After pointing out the "political culture" of the people, Menem said: "The Argentine people can no longer be fooled; they are not dumb; they know the good things and how to do away with lies and wrong things."

Regarding the financing project for political parties, Menem said that "it will give openness" to the system and "it will be an example for the world."

The project "will include tax exemptions for private contributions and contributors' names will be known."

He also said that "the state will increase funds for political parties and keep control over it in an appropriate manner." He added that, according to the project, "people who do not comply with the obligations of this project will be punished for fraudulent administration." [adding dropped text]

New National Senator for La Pampa Province Elected

PY2403121793 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
22 Mar 93 First Section p 5

[Excerpt] Carlos Verna, mayor of the town of General Pico, is the new national senator for La Pampa Province following the internal elections of the provincial Justicialist Party. He achieved a comfortable two to one victory over his rival, Ambassador Zelmira Regazzoli.

With the votes of 67 of the 75 polling stations counted, Verna had obtained 15,672 votes (67.60 percent), while Regazzoli obtained 7,219 votes (32.40 percent) according to details released to the media by the party's Electoral Board in Santa Rosa. [passage omitted]

Atucha Nuclear Plant Shuts Down After 6 Days of Operations

PY2303220193 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 23 Mar 93 p 5

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] (DYN)—The Atucha-I nuclear power station was down again last weekend for repairs the Atomic Energy Commission said yesterday. The power station had been shut down for almost two months before finally being put back into service last Sunday [14 March], but after working for only six days, it was decided to shut the reactor down again. Last week the ecologist group Greenpeace issued a report that said that personnel at Atucha during 1991 received ten times the radiation dosage than the average received by personnel working on similar reactors round the world.

Operations Resume

PY2403033193 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2108
GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) today said that, after a scheduled shutdown for maintenance and control, the Atucha-I nuclear power plant has rejoined the national energy network under "normal conditions."

In a communique, the CNEA stated that a number of checkups were carried out on the conventional section's electric transformer that recently was repaired, taking advantage of the reduced energy demand that usually takes place on weekends.

The communique adds that the maintenance and control work was carried out without any problems and that Atucha-I resumed operations at 1207 today as scheduled by specialized CNEA personnel.

Bolivia

President Remarks on Maritime Claim

PY2303190193 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1455 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Speech by President Jaime Paz Zamora on the 114th anniversary of the Battle of Calama, in La Paz—live]

[Excerpts] Dear fellow countrymen, men, and women of Bolivia. We are here again, like every year, with the Bolivian people and their legitimate institutional officials to render honors to Eduardo Abaroa [Bolivian hero who died during Battle of Calama] and to the men and women who heroically defended our sea coast.

We are also here to reaffirm the indeclinable will of all Bolivians to recuperate our sovereign sea coast. The Armed Forces are also here to reaffirm the historic will of the people. [passage omitted]

I would like to suggest that on this occasion the situation of Bolivians has changed. Like never before, the awareness of our maritime claim has deeply penetrated our souls and is extending to the collective conscience of the entire country. Now more than ever Bolivians from all over the country feel this mandate of history.

I admit that perhaps some Bolivians who live further from the Pacific did not feel the same intensity of this mandate of those who live closer to the sea, but our understanding is now much more complete. Those who live in the west, like those who live in the north, in the Amazon region, in the east, and in the south, understand that it is now more than ever necessary to recover our sovereign sea coast. [passage omitted]

I would like to tell all Bolivians, our children who are the future, that the best guarantee of achieving our objective is unity. We are on the difficult path of achieving unity among all Bolivians. We have some problems but, thank God, they are temporary. We Bolivians are learning to build our unity through doing our basic tasks. We have examples of this. Together we are modernizing our country; together we are making basic economic reforms to make our country more effective and competitive; together we are making the necessary reforms in our institutional system in the judicial, legislative, and executive powers; together we are struggling to implement a new policy for social development and well-being for all Bolivians; and together we are struggling to insert Bolivia as an active participant, with dignity, in the international scene.

Unity is thus being built and the difficulties are temporary. I would like to reiterate the importance of unity because division is the only factor that can impede our

return to the sea. Unity is the guarantee of success, unity is necessary for a better respected, stronger, and better organized Bolivia that, when it sits at the negotiations table, will ensure that we are treated as equals and that our demands will be fulfilled because of the force the country itself represents.

In conclusion, I would like to speak very clearly. I would like to tell the people of the Americas and the rest of the world that Bolivia wants to be present in the Pacific, at Ilo Port, and to have its own sovereign sea coast. We want to do that through a strategy of peace, through a strategy of integration where the Bolivian sovereign sea outlet would not only be a benefit for Bolivia but also for the other sister nations of our continent. This is a strategy of peace and integration but also a strategy that must be carried out with pragmatism, gradually, and firmly until the objective is achieved. [passage omitted]

COB To Respond To Government Proposal

PY2303164293 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] [Eduardo Perez Iribarne] We have a report from Nicolas Sanabria.

[Sanabria] Thank you Eduardo, good morning. Negotiations between the government and the leaders of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] are in recess. COB Permanent Secretary Freddy Auza said that important progress had been made in the mining area.

[Begin recording] [Auza] Negotiations were held yesterday and we are now in recess again. [words indistinct] some concrete progress was made on the salary issue, according to some of our COB leaders [words indistinct]. There are requests asking the government to improve substantially its salary proposal, and this issue is to be debated today. [end recording] [Sanabria] Let me reiterate that the negotiations between the government and the workers will continue today in an effort to seek an agreement and put an end to the street demonstrations. Regarding demonstrations, there were clashes yesterday.

[Perez Iribarne] Let me interrupt, before you continue, to report that negotiations concluded last night, which was confirmed by COB Executive Secretary Oscar Salas and Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno. The COB will hold a meeting this afternoon to give either a positive or negative answer to the government proposal. We hope that the answer will be positive, because the two sides have nothing more to talk about. The answer the COB will give in the next few hours to the agreement in principle reached yesterday by the government and the workers is very important.

[Sanabria] Regarding the demonstrations, we should point out that there were many clashes between the police and the teachers demonstrating on the streets yesterday. Several people were arrested, but according to the COB leaders all of them were released upon instructions from the Interior Ministry. [passage indistinct]

Despite the call made by the COB to stop the demonstrations, the rural and urban teachers of La Paz continued with their demonstrations, and this situation led the police to use tear gas in downtown La Paz. The miners said that the government cannot force them to sign their own dismissals, because the privatization of the national mines will mean that they will be left on the streets. [passage indistinct]

The peasants also criticized the government for having ordered the militarization of the towns, because all this does is worsen the social conditions of the country. Paulino Guarachi, secretary general of the CSUTCB [General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia], said that if the government wants to frighten the peasants, we have no other choice than to block roads.

Brazil

President Said Planning Cabinet 'General Overhaul'

Head of Civil Household Said 'Axed'

PY2303190093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Mar 93 Second Section p 3

[From the "Gallery" column by Nirlando Beirao]

[Text] Itamar Franco will give the cabinet a general overhaul after the plebiscite.

Henrique Hargreaves, head of the Civil Household of the Presidency and political manager, will not be touched by April's forecasted hurricane: He has already been axed.

President Denies Cabinet Reshuffle

PY2403003293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Report from Planalto Palace by Luiz Augusto Mendonca]

[Text] President Itamar Franco said today that he will not make any cabinet changes. He denied that he is thinking of a cabinet reshuffle. Surprised over reports in today's newspapers, as soon as he arrived in Planalto Palace, President Itamar Franco invited journalist Sonia Carneiro from (?Radio Nacional do Brasil) to his office on the third floor. To prove that he is not planning to reshuffle his cabinet, President Itamar phoned Finance Minister Eliseu Resende and made him talk by phone with Sonia Carneiro.

Sonia: How was your conversation with the president and with Minister Resende?

[Begin Carneiro relay] In an unexpected move, the president put me on the line with Minister Resende who denied rumors of sudden hikes in dollar exchange and gold rates, of a stock exchange crash, or of a new economic package. The president (?even asked) Minister

Eliseu to phone again. The president chatted openly about all the problems and denied that he would reshuffle the cabinet. Regarding the salary policy for public employees, he said they will obtain another increase only if Congress approves the national budget bill that must be voted on this week. [end relay]

The readjustment of public employees wages will be announced this week only after Congress approves the national budget bill. Public workers would receive this increase through a supplementary payroll.

Finally, President Itamar told Sonia Carneiro that today he will decide with the finance minister on the new managers of the Central Bank; the list will be sent to Congress tomorrow.

Resende Says Creditor Banks' Not Choosing Discount Bonds 'Unfavorable'

PY2303223893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Mar 93 p 3

[Article by Vanda Celia]

[Text] Brasilia—Minister Eliseu Resende believes that the tendency of most creditor banks not to choose discount bonds is unfavorable for Brazil.

The economic team wants to allocate only 40 percent of the total volume of the foreign debt for par bonds, which are more expensive than discount bonds. Brazil will thus spend \$3.2 billion in closing the deal; a senior adviser has said that Resende believes this is the most Brazil can spend on negotiating the foreign debt.

On 20 March, Resende met with Foreign Debt Negotiator Pedro Malan and Alexandre Kafka, Brazilian representative at the IMF.

The minister's adviser said that the Brazilian Government is trying to get the creditor banks to choose the more favorable bonds, although it is satisfied with the 97.5 percent acceptance received by the global proposal for a renegotiation of the debt. The government is, however, concerned over the second phase of the negotiation. The creditor banks want 65 percent of the bonds to be par bonds. This is bad for the country because it compels the government to redeem the foreign debt bonds at their face value with fixed interests rates and a 30-year term.

Seeking to convince the creditor banks to accept discount bonds, the economic team argues that the government has strictly complied with the targets and has honored its debts. Moreover, an agreement was reached by which the banks promised to accept a fair amount of par bonds and the rest in bonds favorable to Brazil. Resende's adviser said: "This agreement, like any other, has some good and some bad points for country."

The adviser said that the positive things for the creditor banks will not be allowed to prevail over what is negative for the country. Since last year the government issued

bonds worth \$7.2 billion and paid \$1.3 billion in delinquent interests. Brazil now wants the voluntary option of the creditor banks to be more balanced than that obtained, for example, by the Argentine Government. The agreement with Argentina comprised 65 percent in par bonds and 35 percent in discount bonds.

German Physicist Warns of Leaks at Angra Nuclear Plants

PY2303200893 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Mar 93 p 19

[Report by Graca Magalhaes-Ruether, O GLOBO's correspondent in Bonn]

[Text] Brazil's Angra-1 nuclear plant, which is already in operation, and Angra-2, which is still under construction, were built with materials that could crack and provoke a radioactive leak. The conclusion was made by nuclear physicist Thomas Panten of the Ecology Group of Germany in Hannover. Panten has just completed a study that will be published next week by Greenpeace, the ecological organization.

The problems affecting Angra-1, which was built by the U.S. firm Westinghouse, rests with the nickel-based material known as Inconel-600, which is used for the internal coating of the reactor and in parts of the primary cooling system tubing. Only two German plants—Obrigheim and Muhlheim—have used this type of material. The Muhlheim plant, which was built by the ABB (Brown Boveri) firm, was shut down after being in operation for only 13 months.

Panten said: Several plants were built in France with this material. There, too, people thought that nothing would happen until radioactive leaks began in some plants.

Panten said that the French have already begun to replace Inconel-600 with Inconel-690, which is also based on nickel but which is more resistant. To replace this material in one reactor alone would cost millions of dollars.

Panten added: Angra-2 could also have problems when it goes into operation because the austenitic steel, the material used by the firm KWU (Kraftwerk Union)-Siemens in its cooling system, is not very safe.

The reactor of the Brunsbittel plant, in northern Germany, was shut down in February following the discovery of more than 100 fissures in austenitic steel surfaces. Panten believes that had it not been shut down, Brunsbittel could have gone down in history as a second Chernobyl. The fissures were spotted in November, but only after the matter was disclosed by the press did the Hamburg Power Company (HEW) decide to shut down the plant for repairs.

KWU, a subsidiary of Siemens, built the Brunsbittel plant. KWU discovered that the fissures had been there since the reactor went into operation. KWU did not

believe that the fissures posed any great danger, but the Hannover Ecology Group considers them to be very dangerous.

Panten said: If there were fissures from the beginning it means that the material is totally unsafe.

German Environment Minister Klaus Toepfer also considered the case to be alarming.

The material, which should be able to resist an earthquake and should never rust, consists of austenitic steel (which is sold in Germany under the name of Nirosta). It is advertised as being very resistant in light of its chrome, nickel, and titanium content. KWU used the material in various parts of the plant, where a record number of fissures occurred: 140.

Panten added: I cannot state that problems will occur at Angra-1 because of the Inconel-600 or at Angra-2 because of the austenitic steel. The two nuclear plants do pose a constant threat of an accident near such a heavily-populated city as Rio de Janeiro.

Contracting of Russian, Ukrainian Scientists Noted

PY2403011993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] Ten Russian and Ukraine scientists with degrees (Ph.D.) in various areas have been contracted by Rio Grande do Sul State academic institutions. To get an idea about these contracts, it is enough to recall that one of these contracts was made between Santa Maria University and professor Peter Ekel, the youngest academician in the former USSR, who is a specialist in optimizing electricity in its production phase. In a country such as Brazil, which must seriously look into energy problems whether they are found in the production phase or the economic area, Ekel's knowledge is very welcome.

The example of Rio Grande do Sul State is an important point that can help make the other contracts, which already have been researched, with Russian scientists effective. A year ago, in April, universities, research institutes, and even federal institutions such as Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.] submitted to the Sao Paulo State Government a list of 107 names of foreign scientists they intended to contract. Some 27 of these scientists are Russian researchers. How many were actually contracted? The whole world is attracting the human resources of a former super power that cannot support them now. Why are we delaying in this field?

Since the middle of 1992 the world has been competing for the Russian scientists. To recall two examples (that were revealed): France contracted Russian specialists for the control systems for the Hermes manned space shuttle, and regarding the National Patent Development [preceding three words in English], it found specialists to revet diamonds for heavy military equipment.

The salaries, averaging between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per month, Brazil has offered these scientists are lower than what is paid on the international market, but they are very much higher than the unbelievable \$20 to \$100 they receive in the CIS. The opportunity is there and it must not be lost. Brazil is not a paradise for scientific production; it alternates between First and Fourth World scenarios. On the one hand, Brazilian researchers published more than 3,000 papers abroad in 1991 (more than those published by all other Latin American countries combined) and, on the other, Brazil invested only 80 U.S. cents per capita in research in 1991, while the United States or Japan invested \$50.

The Russian and Ukrainian scientists know this and yet they submit their curriculum vitae to the Brazilian Embassy and insist on coming but with one extra proviso: that they be allowed to bring between 20 and 40 kg of books as complementary luggage. In other words, they want their technical books at hand. Is it that maybe our geographic and mental frontiers are not open enough to receive specialists? Or is it that our corporations have, in fact, so much fear of the competition?

Chile

Humanist-Green Party To Withdraw from CPPD Coalition

PY2403124993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The Humanist-Green Party has announced its decision to withdraw from the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD]. It will launch its own presidential candidate and a congressional list.

The Humanist-Green Party was registered at the Electoral Service with 100,000 members but has had no success in general elections.

The party has no representative in Congress following the death of Laura Rodriguez and only obtained 15 seats for councilmen in the municipal elections. Their leaders no longer want to belong to the CPPD because they say it no longer represents them. Humanist-Green Party President Jose Gabriel Perez said:

[Begin recording] [Perez] We feel that it is the time to tell the people what we think, to invite all social fighters to promote a true choice of change for Chile in the future.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think you will do better outside the CPPD?

[Perez] Considering the situation prevailing within the CPPD where—as we have stated, ideas have been replaced by calculators and the CPPD has become a merely electoral business—we can undoubtedly not remain within the CPPD. [end recording]

This position is not shared by the group led by Jose Tomas Saenz, the founder of the Humanist-Green Party.

and who is currently not involved in political activities. He said that he will resign from the party along with some other party members.

[Begin Saenz recording] I think they will preach in the wilderness outside the CPPD and will fail. I am referring to the Humanist Party, not to humanism. [end recording]

The Humanist-Green Party will continue to support presidential candidate (Christian Rex) until December.

Poll Shows PDC Frei As Favorite Presidential Candidate

PY2403121693 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Mar 93

[All figures as heard]

[Text] A poll conducted by the Geminis enterprise reveals that presidential hopeful Eduardo Frei [Christian Democratic Party, PDC] enjoys the support of the great majority. Of the rightists, Jose Pineira [Independent] appears to have the best chance.

Here is the peoples' choice when asked who they would prefer as next president of the Republic: 42.9 percent for Eduardo Frei [PDC]; 19.3 percent for Ricardo Lagos [Socialist Party, PS]; 4.1 percent for Jose Pineira; 2.6 percent for Francisco Javier Errazuriz [Center Center Union, UCC]; 2.1 percent for Manuel Feliu [National Renewal, RN]; 1.2 percent for Eugenio Pizarro [Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement, MIDA]; and 0.9 percent for Jovino Novoa [Democratic Independent Union, UDI].

Here are the preferences on the best candidate of the rightist sector: 32.4 percent for Jose Pineira; 25.8 percent for Manuel Feliu; and 13.1 percent for Jovino Novoa.

As to who would be the best candidate of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPS] the people answered: 61.4 percent for Eduardo Frei; 30.3 percent for Ricardo Lagos; and 2 percent for Anselmo Sule [Radical Party, PR].

According to the poll, if Eduardo Frei were the only candidate of the PDC he would win by more than 70 percent. If Ricardo Lagos ran for the CPPD against Jose Pineira, Lagos would win in a first round of elections by 51.5 percent.

*** Smaller Parties in Coalition Losing Ground**

93SM0179A Santiago HOY in Spanish 15-21 Feb 93 pp 12-14

[Article by Sonia Zilci: "The Bipolar Threat"]

[Text] The fact that the smaller parties in the Coalition are finding it difficult to survive is demonstrated by the mere fact that only 10 of the 17 original organizations

remain. The Democratic Party of the Left (PDI) was added to the Coalition last year, making a total of 11 parties.

Two sectors—the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] on the one hand and the PS-PPD [Socialist Party-Party for Democracy] on the other—monopolized 90 percent of the vote of the coalition in the most recent elections. The remainder was divided among eight organizations: the Radical Party [PR], the Humanist-Green Alliance, the Social Democratic Party [PSD], the Center Alliance Party [PAC], the PDI, the Worker Peasant MAPU [MOC], the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement], and the Christian Left (Party) [IC]. Except for the PR, which obtained 4.91 percent of the vote in the municipal elections, all these parties must approach the parliamentary negotiations with their miniscule electoral influence having been confirmed even more decisively than in 1989.

Go Their Own Way, or Find a Good Tree To Lean On

In contrast to the UCC [Center-Center Union], whose abundant vote total could be decisive in the election of candidates of the opposition—an argument it is using in the negotiations for parliamentary candidacies—these small parties of the Coalition have little ability to bring electoral pressure to bear on their "peers." Virtually the only argument for the distribution of parliamentary candidacies is the genetic origin of the Coalition as a conglomerate of parties that ought not to stifle their pluralism.

In the current presidential contest, only the PDI has lined up with the PS-PPD sector. The Christian Democratic Party is accompanied by the PAC and MOC; the Democratic Social Party is supporting Frei, in a somewhat more hesitant manner; and although the Humanist-Green Alliance has proclaimed itself to be in a third position, one should not forget that it was part of the PDC subpact in the municipal elections.

The small parties are considering basically two options for the parliamentary negotiations: to run their own candidate, or to join with a large party from which they will surely receive a share of parliamentary candidacies.

Favoring the first option are the Radical Party, the Humanist-Green Alliance, and the Christian Left Party.

Just as it did three years ago when the candidacy of Enrique Silva Cimma led to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, the PR is again presenting a presidential candidate. The candidacy of Senator Anselmo Sule helps give a small push to the PR proposals. This is separate from the plans to negotiate that they are refusing to confirm.

In practice, the support of Sule and the Radicals for one or the other of the two candidates—Frei or Lagos—could very possibly alter the balance among the existing forces,

or confirm it. The PR accounted for approximately 10 percent of the votes received by the Coalition, surprising even the Coalition itself.

The Humanist-Green Party has attempted to portray itself as a critical option within the Coalition, and its proposals have received more publicity since it decided to enter a presidential candidate. In 1989 it also chose to enter one, but now it is presenting a candidate who fulfills all the requisites for the position and could therefore potentially serve as president. When Laura Rodriguez announced her candidacy (in 1989) she was under 35 years of age, and the other parties in the Coalition therefore found it hard to regard her candidacy as a threat. This time, however, the Humanist-Greens are entering a man who fulfills the age requirements: Cristian Reitze is 42.

The IC too has decided to have its own candidate, although he is not a party member and is from outside the Coalition: the independent Manfred Max-Neef. The party's position would appear to be somewhat in the nature of a testimonial.

Realistically aware of their scant electoral strength, the PAC, MOC, and PDI have already decided to support one of the big parties. The PAC opted for Eduardo Frei and proclaimed its support with great solemnity last month at a downtown Santiago hotel. It is counting on a Frei administration being above partisanship and not bound by quotas in the distribution of jobs, in contrast to the present government. During the Aylwin administration it had one cabinet minister (Carlos Hurtado), an undersecretary of the Navy (Tomas Puig), the head of the legal division of the Ministry-Secretariat General of the Presidency (Pedro Correa), and also an ambassador (German Riesco) and mayor (Adolfo Ballas). In the past they counted on attracting rightist dissidents by helping to project the "image of pluralism and moderation that played a major role in the election of Patricio Aylwin."

A similar policy is being followed by the MOC, which also proclaimed its support for Frei and was part of the subpact with the DC in the municipal elections, as was also the PSD, which however has not yet decided to support Frei, although it acknowledges that he is the candidate most entitled to its support.

The PDI is supporting Lagos, which is a natural position for it to take. It is the only party that would receive quotas from the PS-PPD sector, according to the Socialist leader Anibal Palma.

We Will Not Accept

It is a virtual certainty that the Humanist-Green Party, the Social Democratic Party, the recently legalized MAPU, and the PAC (which is initiating its process) will lose their recognition under the law in the coming elections, given the requirement that a party receive 5 percent of the vote. There is repeated talk of a merger of the Social Democrats with the Radicals, which could be inevitable after the elections, as occurred with the

Humanists and the Greens on the previous occasion. The PAC is counting on obtaining 5 percent of the vote in the contiguous V, VI, VII, and Metropolitan regions, and the Radicals on obtaining in the Metropolitan Region more than the 2.4 percent share of the vote they received in the municipal elections.

The MOC seeks one candidacy for deputy, and the PAC candidacies for seven deputies and two senators. Among the names mentioned for these posts are German Riesco, Tomas Puig, Pedro Correa, Federico Willoughby, and Victor Carmine. In the PDI there is talk of candidacies for deputy for Fanny Pollarolo, Luis Guastavino, and Antonio Leal, preferentially in places where the Coalition did not obtain representation, because it has no desire to unseat any Socialist member of Parliament. MAPU would like two deputies, and the Christian Left four deputies and one senator. The humanists are seeking eight candidacies for deputy—three more than in 1989—and one for senator. The Social Democrats are also increasing their aspirations—to five candidates for deputy and two for senator. The only party to reduce its aspirations for candidacies for deputy is the Radical Party (to 12 or 14), because it is taking into account the effect that will be produced by the nonpresentation of a parallel slate close to the Coalition left, such as the slate of PAIS [Broad Socialist Left Party] at the previous election. There is talk in the PR of maintaining the Senatorial candidacies of Sule and Carlos Gonzalez Marquez and of granting one to Sergio Carrasco in the Third Region; talks to that effect with the DC are in an advanced stage. As in the case of the big parties, the small parties are also trying to reelect their members of Parliament. There is talk among the Social Democrats of support for Mario Papi in the VII Region, which however is meeting with resistance from the members of the Christian Democratic Party, who do not want to vote again for Papi and want instead to present the candidacy of Manuel Antonio Matta.

In short, the small parties in the Coalition are reportedly soliciting some 43 candidacies—something that seems impossible to satisfy given the present circumstances of the Coalition, which are very different from those prevailing at the time of the 1989 negotiations:

1. The strength of the parties in the Coalition is now known, and except for the PR these parties have not done very well. The small parties argue that their electoral strength is greater than indicated by the figures for the municipal elections, inasmuch as they were able to enter candidates in only a few municipalities of the country, and if that did occur it was also because there was little confidence in their ability to attract votes.

2. The seats in districts and subdistricts [circunscripciones] of good quality for the Coalition are now occupied, and the great majority of the members of Parliament in those districts and subdistricts are seeking reelection.

3. There will be no repetition of a situation in which the leftist parties in the Coalition support candidates who are outside the Coalition, as occurred in the case of their pact with the PAIS slate in 1989. It is anticipated that these parties will be allocated more candidacies within the Coalition.

4. What is perceived to be more threatening—especially for parties such as the PR that need more candidacies—is the attempt by the PS-PPD sector to rewrite the plan for the municipal elections and not to allocate candidacies to other parties except for the PDI. The proposal by the PDC sector to grant the same number of candidacies as in 1989—namely 15—would not be enough to satisfy the total requirements of the small parties. The Radical Party is denouncing this situation and opposing the division of the Coalition into two blocs, on grounds that the PR is an important part of the Coalition. This assertion is supported by the figures, which show that the PR represents approximately 10 percent of the Coalition's vote total.

PR Deputy Chairman Patricio Tombolini has counter-attacked the allegations of the socialist sector. "In no way," he said, "do we accept the view that the Coalition is composed of two large blocs: the DC and the PS-PPD. The sacrifices necessary in order to ensure expression of the pluralism of the Coalition must be made not only by the Christian Democrats but also by the PS-PPD. They cannot hope to obtain the number of candidacies they desire. We do not accept their statement that they represent 50 percent of the parliamentary candidacies."

In practice, the increasing bipolarity of the Coalition—in which you have the DC and its allies on one side and the PS-PPD bloc on the other—limits the small parties in their aspirations for parliamentary candidacies and could lead to an even greater reduction in the number of parties in the Coalition.

Colombia

Government To Launch New Reinsertion Plan for Ex-Guerrillas

PA2303194693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] In an attempt to attain peace in Uraba and isolate the extremist wing of the EPL [Popular Liberations Army] led by Francisco Caravallo, the government will launch a new reinsertion plan based on a broad economic plan for former guerrillas.

Even though the government has not started negotiations with the dissident EPL wing, the National News-cast learned that on 25 March Uraba adviser Jose Berrios and National Security Adviser Ricardo Santamaria will make the second stage of the reinsertion program official.

This time the government has earmarked 230 million pesos to support four production projects, which will employ about 120 former guerrillas who handed in their weapons in 1991 and who have not yet received presidential support. Ninety million pesos will be used to purchase cattle, 54 million pesos for plantain production, 30 million pesos to set up a printing plant, and the remaining 32 [as heard] million pesos to open clothes shops and supermarkets.

With this economic support the government seeks to have the guerrillas who are still in the bush under Caravallo surrender their weapons and turn themselves in at the military garrisons. They will receive legal assistance from the Prosecutors' Office, and once this hurdle is overcome, they can participate in the economic plans that will begin on 25 March in Uraba.

Government's Policy Toward Guerrillas Said 'Changed'

PA2403011393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Report by Javier Dario Restrepo]

[Text] The government's official peace policy has changed. The unbending position maintained by the national government regarding negotiations with guerrilla groups considerably changed on 23 March. The pressure exerted by the Armed Forces on groups of subversives and the positive reaction from a dissident Army of National Liberation faction made this possible.

A new peace process seems to have started at Narino Palace. The national government issued a decree stating it will delegate its authority to local and regional authorities so they can establish contacts with guerrilla groups that want to participate in the peace process.

The government has also offered to rescind arrest warrants for political crimes issued against guerrilla group members, if they wish to surrender. The government's offer occurs at a time when talks are being prepared with the Socialist Renewal Current and when an increasing number of guerrilla group members have approached the authorities to request protection.

In contrast with the unbending position adopted toward drug traffickers, the government's attitude toward the guerrilla groups seems to have improved. Nevertheless, the government still abides by its peace policy and its practical implementation.

Trade Minister Reveals Gaviria Privatization 'Secret'

PA2303215893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] It is the same thing the world over. Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos' tongue loosened up in Miami over the 20 March weekend when he revealed the indiscriminate privatization policy that had so far been kept a secret on President Cesar Gaviria's instructions.

Santos directly and unhesitatingly spilled the beans on Gaviria's plans. Santos spoke with reporters at a news conference at the Colombian-American Chamber of Commerce in Miami and loudly revealed a secret that the government had been carefully keeping since last week: the privatization of over 100 government enterprises. Here is what Santos said:

[Begin Santos recording] Eleven corporations in which the Industrial Development Institute is a shareholder will be sold. Monomeros Colombo-Venezolana and Cerromatoso are specific cases. [end recording]

At the beginning of the conference, Santos said the Colombian Government on 23 March would report on last week's National Economic and Social Policy Council decision ordering the sale of large corporations such as Cerromatoso, four government-owned banks, and a chain of 29 hotels. That would leave the government virtually without properties. The news, perhaps the most important this year, elicited strong reactions today.

* Electrical Sector Expansion Projects Described

* Porce II in Antioquia

93SM0189A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p 10A

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—On 23 February the CONPES [National Council for Economic and Social Policy] approved the implementation of the first hydroelectric project under the expansion plan which seeks to eliminate any need for electricity rationing after 1995. The project has the support of the central government.

Empresas Publicas de Medellin [EPM—Medellin Public Enterprises Co] will build the Porce II electricity generating station, which will cost \$546 million.

The loans involved in the project will be guaranteed by the central government. However, Empresas Publicas will be required to make technical and administrative changes to make the management of the company more efficient.

The decision ensures that an additional 392,000 KWH [Kilowatt hours] of electricity generating capacity will be available.

The project is located on the Porce River in the north-eastern area of the Department of Antioquia, 120 km from Medellin.

The water reservoir which will make the generator function will flood more than 1,000 ha.

About \$17.0 million have already been invested in the project, including the purchase of 85 percent of the land required by the companies building the dam and handling related work.

According to Memorandum 2636 approved by the National Council on Political, Economic, and Social

Policy, the Empresas Publicas de Medellin will provide 40 percent of the investment, that is, \$218 million.

Previously, the National Energy Finance Company [FEN] had made a study of the financial condition of the EPM. It concluded that by mobilizing resources within the company it would be possible to repay \$586 million of its debts between 1993 and 2000 and, at the same time, to make additional investments amounting to \$1.038 billion.

Financing

Nevertheless, 60 percent of the financing of the Porce II hydroelectric project, or \$328 million, will be handled by foreign loans.

For this purpose it is planned to seek a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank and other intergovernmental development agencies. In any case, according to the decision made by CONPES in approving the project, the total period for repaying the loans will be no less than 20 years. The grace period under the loans will be equal to the period required for the construction of the project.

Under the expansion plan, which seeks to install 2.5 million KWH of electricity generating capacity, 800,000 KWH were included for the optional construction of hydroelectric power generation. This means that only 408,000 KWH of generating capacity will remain to be constructed out of the total amount which, prior to the institution of the electricity rationing program, was considered the most reliable alternative for electricity generation.

The program was approved by the National Energy Commission, which evaluated it and stated that the studies of the project on hand in the offices of the EPM "are complete and are of excellent quality."

This guarantee will also be conditioned on reaching the goals set out in an implementation agreement signed by EPM with the FEN.

Health Services Companies

Meanwhile, in the health field the government announced an ambitious project to set up mutual health services companies to take care of communities with limited resources.

The program, which will have a budget of 20 billion Colombian pesos, will be carried out over a period of five years, during which time it is hoped to provide medical coverage to all poor Colombians.

The communities which will be provided with these mutual health service companies will basically receive preventive medical services, according to a CONPES decision.

*** Miel I in Caldas**

93SM0189B Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p 10A

[Article by Jairo Castro, La Dorada, Department of Caldas: "Private Companies Participate in Construction of Miel I Hydroelectric Project in Department of Caldas"]

[Excerpts] On 24 February the final legal steps will be taken in La Dorada to set up "Hidromiel I," a company which will be responsible for financing the future construction of a hydroelectric generating plant in the valley of the Miel River in the Department of Caldas. A novel feature of the company will be the participation of the private sector—including international, private companies—in the generation of electricity in Colombia.

The ceremony at which the company will be formally established will be presided over by President Cesar Gaviria, the chief of state. Also attending will be the governors of the following departments: Pilar Villegas de Hoyos, Department of Caldas; Mario Gomez Ramirez, Department of Quindio; and Roberto Galvez Montealegre, Department of Risaralda. Leaders of the regional and national electricity industry will also be present.

The project, regarded as a long-term effort under the electricity expansion plan, will begin to generate 375,000 megawatts of electricity upon its completion in the year 2000. It will cost \$545 million.

The Caldas Hydroelectric Center (CHEC), the principal contracting agency under the project, has guaranteed that the Hidromiel I Company will provide 40 percent of the total financing. The remaining 60 percent of the financing will come from international loans, possibly concluded on a government-to-government basis.

Ownership of the Hidromiel I Company will be shared as follows: 56 percent by the central Colombian Government, through ISA [Electric Interconnection, Inc.]; 26 percent by the departmental governments of Caldas, Quindio, and Risaralda through the CHEC; and 18 percent by the private sector.

It should be pointed out that Colombian insurance companies and one multinational company together will own 18 percent of the company.

The CHEC Company has already constructed a number of access roads and has everything ready—in terms of land acquisition—to invite bids after the second quarter of 1994. Construction of the project will begin at the end of 1994.

The Miel I Hydroelectric Project is located on the eastern slope of the Cordillera Central [Central Mountain Range] in the northeastern part of the Department of Caldas, near the village of Norcasia, in the Municipality of Samana, immediately below the confluence of the Miel and Moro Rivers. [passage omitted]

The project includes the construction of approximately 16 km of roads.

One of 'Most Wanted' Mafia Members Extradited to Italy

PA2403023793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Paolo Pisano was extradited to Italy on 23 March. He is one of the most wanted Italian Mafia members. He has been sentenced to 27 years in prison. Pisano was arrested by the Colombian police in Santa Rosa de Cabal.

Paraguay

Wasmosy-Seifart Ticket 'Fully' Confirmed for Colorado Party

PY2303172893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 23 Mar 93 p 3

[Excerpts] With the expiration of the deadline for the registration of candidates at the Central Electoral Board, the Wasmosy-Seifart pairing has been fully confirmed as the presidential ticket for the Colorado Party. From now on Colorado members may relax, as they already have legally registered candidates to participate in the 9 May election. It should be noted that the possibility of changing the Colorado presidential ticket, through negotiations, had been mentioned up until the last minute. [passage omitted]

Eleven political groups have registered to participate in the 9 May general election. They are: the National Republican Association, or Colorado Party, which registered Juan Carlos Wasmosy Monti and Angel Roberto Seifart as candidates for president and vice president, respectively. The Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] registered Domingo Laino and Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin as candidates for president and vice president, respectively. Both the Colorado Party and the PLRA have also registered candidates for all other elective posts.

The National Encounter Alliance registered Guillermo Caballero Vargas and Maria Victoria Brusquetti as candidates for president and vice president, respectively. National Encounter also registered candidates for all other elective posts.

The Workers Party registered the candidacies of Eduardo Maria Arce Schaerer and Arturo Acosta Mena for president and vice president, respectively. It has also registered candidates for senators, for deputies in all departments, and candidates for governor in the departments of San Pedro, Guaira, Alto Parana, and Central.

The "Social and Democratic Agreement" ["Concertacion Democratica y Social"] registered Ricardo Canese and Miguel Angel Montaner as candidates for president

and vice president, respectively. It has also registered candidates for senators and candidates for deputies and departmental governors.

The National Socialist Party registered Gustavo Bader Ibanez and Luisa Ramona Garcia de Espinola as candidates for president and vice president, respectively; and candidates for deputies in the capital city of Asuncion and candidate for governor in the Central Department.

The Progressive Social Political Movement [Movimiento Politico Social Progresista] registered Leandro Prieto Yegros and Gustavo Adolfo Benitez Soler as candidates for president and vice president, respectively. It has also nominated candidates for other elective posts.

The Broad Movement for National Participation [Movimiento Amplio de Participacion Nacional] registered Joel Atilio Cazal and Porfiria Guerrero de Martinez as candidates for president and vice president, respectively.

The Blanco Party registered candidates for senators, deputies in Asuncion, and in the departments of Caaguazu and Central. The 26 May political movement only nominated candidates for deputies in Asuncion.

The last presidential candidate in registering was Abraham Zapag [National Alliance].

Peru

State of Emergency Extended in Lima Department

PA2303183793 Lima Radio Programas del Peru
Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The Defense Ministry extended the state of emergency for 60 days in Lima Department and El Callao Province. The Armed Forces will continue to exert internal control as long as the constitutional guarantees are suspended.

Congress President Says Antiterrorist Laws To Be Revised

PY2403122093 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 18 Mar 93
pp 22-23

[From the "Undercurrent Column"]

[Text] Constituent Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama on 12 March announced that all antiterrorist laws will be revised. He announced this measure upon receiving Jaen Bishop Jose Maria Izusquiza and peasants from San Ignacio who were recently released after being held for almost eight months at the Picci prison, in Chiclayo, and who were to have been sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. This was a disturbing case because these innocent people were about to be sentenced, but a campaign by the press and human rights organizations prevented it.

The CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] three weeks ago received proposed reforms to the antiterrorist

laws submitted by the National Human Rights Coordinating Board. It is believed that some 60 of the 135 cases of sentences need judicial revision because certain errors have reportedly been committed in sentencing. It has been stated that the way proceedings are conducted restricts the right to defense and does not grant the accused the minimum guarantees essential in an impartial and just trial.

Police Arrest Leader of Shining Path Armed Branch

PY2403010193 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
13 Mar 93 p 10

[Excerpts] Police have arrested the leader of the so-called "People's Liberation Army" [Ejercito Popular de Liberacion], the Shining Path's armed branch that is responsible for the most dreadful terrorist actions carried out in Lima. His name is Marco Antonio Abarca Rupay, alias "Comrade Moses," who—according to police—also became the leader of "People's Aid," thus replacing attorney Martha Huatay after she was taken into custody.

"Comrade Moses" was one of the favorite disciples of Abimael Guzman Reinoso, the Shining Path's top leader. In light of the key posts he held, the Dincote [National Counterterrorism Directorate] considered him to be number one in the subversive group's chain of command in Lima.

Sixteen other terrorists also were arrested with Abarca. Some of them belong to special squads of the so-called People's Liberation Army—men and women who have been trained to kill people in cold blood and commit mass murders under adverse circumstances.

A Dincote spokesman yesterday underscored the importance of these arrests, stating that "the Shining Path's military organization in Lima has been virtually dismantled; most of its leading members have been busted."

At several buildings used as hideouts by the terrorists, police found automatic pistols, guns, a breech-loading rifle, homemade explosive devices known as "Russian cheese," dynamite, ANFO [ammonium-nitrate-fuel oil blasting agents], fuses, electric detonators for explosive devices, grenades, and Instalaza-type antitank rockets, as well as ammunition for various calibers. [passage omitted]

The heavy blow dealt to the Shining Path by police was not only instrumental in solving past and current cases but also in discovering and thwarting sinister plans.

Mayor Humberto Paredes from Comas District, who was reelected as mayor, as well as a high-ranking government official who works for the Ministry of the Presidency, were to be the targets of criminal attacks in the upcoming days.

The aforementioned government officials' names were on a secret list among the abundant documentation seized by police.

Besides the victims' names, the document included precise instructions about the date and time in which the murders were to be carried out. [passage omitted]

What is more, the order to kill already had been given by "Comrade Moses," who entrusted special death squad No. 27 with the task of committing the murder. The squad's political leader was Victor Manco Nalvarte, alias "Jorge," while its military leader was Luis Zambrano Toro, alias "Lipa," both of whom are among the 16 terrorist taken into custody.

The other 14 detainees are Johnny Sedelmayer Armas Romulo Velasquez Palomino; Luis Alberto Salomo Bravo; Oscar Manuel Soldemayer Armas; Mario Quinonez Mamani; Victoria Salas Hualpa; Urbano Ordaya Ramirez; Crisanto Ordaya Ramirez; Francisco Galvez Perez; Adelina Sedelmayer Armas; Lazaro Alarcon Gonzales; Felipe Carrasco Luque; Maximo Julcapoma Ninaya; and Manuel Mendoza Chiara. The last rented the houses used as hideouts.

Police investigations and the confiscated documents revealed that the Shining Path also was planning to plant car bombs at the Naval Base headquartered in Callao and at police stations in San Juan de Miraflores District and the Santa Isabel neighborhood, Coma District.

It also planned to kill three Central Market leaders and two doctors who work at the Dos de Mayo hospital. The latter were to be killed because they refused to join the so-called health apparatus managed by the subversive group.

MRTA Subversives Continue To Surrender in Tarapoto

PA2303161693 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Subversives in San Martin are continuing to desert en masse. Fifteen members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] surrendered to the military in Tarapoto [date unspecified], including a couple and their small children.

[Begin recording] [unidentified soldier] You are here at the base as lodgers. You are under no restrictions; you are free to walk about and you can talk to me freely. Anything you tell me will remain strictly confidential and off the record. Documents will be processed by the Prosecutor's Office. You can receive forms, fill them out, and register as repentant subversives. You will then be permitted to move throughout the country freely.

[Unidentified reporter] Why did you decide to surrender?

[Unidentified subversive] All of us made this decision because the situation looks serious. We know we are on the wrong path and we are repentant.

[Reporter] You belonged to the MRTA?

[Subversive] I was a militiaman in Yumbot.

[Reporter] How many of you decided to surrender?

[Subversive] At least 14 of us are from Yumbot.

[Reporter] Did you make the decision together before coming to this military base?

[Subversive] Of course. We all decided to come and resolve our problems with the Army.

[Reporter] Did you confirm your repentance together?

[Subversive] Exactly.

[Reporter] How long had you been with the movement?

[Second subversive] [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Have you decided to rejoin society?

[Second subversive] I came to this camp with my husband to surrender.

[Reporter] Why did you decide to surrender?

[Second subversive] To end the persecution by the Army and other organizations. [end recording]

Minister Says More Public Workers To Be Dismissed

PY2403014893 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
12 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Daniel Hokama, who is also chairman of the Commission for Promotion of Private Investment (Copri), announced that to streamline the state apparatus it will be necessary to dismiss more public employees in addition to the 500,000 the government already has dismissed during its first two years in office.

Speaking to foreign reporters during a news conference, Hokama said: "We regret that many people are losing their jobs. We are deeply touched by this situation, but we can no longer permit the previous situation to continue; that is, we have to put the interests of one sector of society on one side of the scale and the interests of the entire society on the other."

He said that although there are no clear, accurate figures available on the number of public employees in Peru through 1990, it is estimated that half the work force of the enormous government bureaucracy has been dismissed.

Hokama added that these dismissals also affect the personnel of regional governments.

He said that the policy of dismissals must continue because the state apparatus continues to be disproportionate in a country that needs to address the health and educational problems of millions of people.

Hokama justified the dismissals because the state apparatus was "disproportional to political and electoral interests." He added: "The dismissals were both necessary and unavoidable."

He said that the excessive level of personnel imposed an untenable burden on many public institutions and state-owned companies. For instance, he said, the Mines and Energy Ministry has reduced its personnel from 1,200 to 450. He added: "This number is still high for a modern state."

The minister announced that further reductions in the number of workers will inevitably have to be made in the next few months.

Restructuring the state is part of a package of reforms that has been undertaken by the Fujimori government since 1990, seeking to modernize and adjust it to the new development model based on a market economy.

Hokama said the objective is to build an effective, competitive national economy, and an "oversized, bureaucratic state" cannot be maintained.

He expressed confidence that the dismissed workers will find jobs in the private sector as soon as the Peruvian economic reactivation begins.

Logistics Deficiencies in Drug-Trafficking Fight Noted

*PY2303195693 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
12 Mar 93 p A5*

[Text] Because of logistics support deficiencies, only 46 light planes allegedly linked with drug trafficking were intercepted in 1992. The majority of the planes, however, could not be confiscated, as their documents were found to be in order and no incriminating evidence was found in them.

This statement was made yesterday by Defense Minister General Victor Malca Villanueva while addressing the Drug Trafficking Work Group of the Supervisory Committee of the Democratic Constituent Congress, which is presided over by Julio Castro Gomez (MDI) [Democratic Left Movement].

In his report, Malca Villanueva said that from 1980 to date, 74 low-ranking officers—59 from the Army, 9 from the Navy, and 6 from the Air Force—were prosecuted on drug-trafficking charges.

Of the 74 cases, 54 were placed under military court jurisdiction, while the other 20 were transferred to the civil courts. This matter gave rise to several questions and much criticism from opposition representatives Castro Gomez and Fernando Olivera (FIM) [Independent Moralization Front], who claimed that such procedures are inappropriate for the fight against narcotics.

Another topic that the minister failed to clarify was the use night vision devices for intercepting planes. At the

beginning he said that they do not have such devices, for which reason the Air Force has for a long time engaged in interception operations only during daytime hours and with only six planes.

In response to a question by a committee member, however, he explained that the night vision devices were being used for the antiterrorist fight and that not even DEA agents operated at night with those devices. Concerning the DEA, the minister said that its main role was to give advice and information.

The minister said that radars are used at night to register the arrivals and departures of light planes from Alto Huallaga, but planes cannot be intercepted because of the lack of night vision devices.

For this reason, the minister said, drug traffickers fly at night.

Concerning the illegal airstrips, Malca said that they have been either destroyed or rendered useless, but because of the lack of surveillance or permanent posts at each of those places, the people living in the area help in reopening them.

According to Agriculture Ministry figures, there were 213,000 hectares of coca farms in 1991. Approximately 10,000 families make a living on that crop.

The minister said that 3,560 officers, most of them from the Army, have been assigned to drug trafficking zones since 1980.

Concerning the cases that were submitted to the military and the civil courts, Malca said that the administrative process should be expedited to authorize dismissals and transfer the cases to the civil courts.

Castro Gomez asked the minister to make thorough consultations with his legal advisers about this matter, to address it at a future meeting with the committee.

Castro Gomez also requested information on the threats from an Army inspector and on repeated attempts to bribe prefect office authorities by Padre Abad and father Fermin Cantabrana, of Juanjuy, who had to leave the country because his security was being jeopardized.

For his part, government Congressman Andres Reggiardo said they are ready to listen to any suggestion or project to issue updated regulations for waging an all-out fight against narcotics.

The minister said he could not be overly optimistic on the drug-trafficking issue, explaining that he supplied preliminary information to the committee, because to give details of specific cases would call for a review of several folders.

He said it is not easy to control 7,500 km of borders with few resources and the current situation prevailing in Peru.

He said that commanders are not in direct contact with drug trafficking but captains and lieutenants assigned to small bases.

As for the low salaries, he said it is nothing new and that it depends on the economy. A sergeant assigned to an emergency zone earns some 120 new soles a month and a soldier earns 90 new soles.

Venezuela

Perez, Netherlands Antilles Prime Minister Discuss Oil Contract

PA2303043893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] The renewal of the Venezuelan Petroleum Enterprise operation contract for the Curacao Island Refinery will be the main point on the agenda during an official visit to Caracas by Maria Peters de Liberia, the prime minister of the Netherlands Antilles. The arrival of Peters de Liberia was delayed for two and one half hours due to bad weather over the Caribbean Sea. After receiving the proper honors, the prime minister highlighted the friendly ties of our countries.

[Begin Peters de Liberia recording] We are well aware of the benefits of having good neighbors. It is important to have relatives near, but it is sometimes more important to have a close neighbor than distant relatives. [end recording]

Later in the day, she held her first meeting with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at the Miraflores Presidential Palace, during which she addressed the Caribbean nation's interest in Venezuela renewing its operation contract for the island refinery. It is an important factor in the Netherlands Antilles' economy, which will need a substantial investment for modernization.

[Begin Perez recording] Through positive legislation and our international agreements, we must give our relations a sense of continuity, which are already a historic reality we could not deny, even if we wanted to. We wish to receive and accept your visit as a new possibility to find ways of strengthening our ties and give them a greater sense of continuity. [end recording]

Drug trafficking is another issue to be addressed during this second visit by Peter de Liberia. On 23 March, the prime minister will travel to Carabobo where she will inaugurate a ferry service between Puerto Cabello and Curacao.

Japan Facilitates 2 Loans for Petroleum Industries

PA1803185993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Report by Zaida Pereira]

[Text] On 17 March, Jutaro Sakamoto, Japanese ambassador to Venezuela, expressed his country's full confidence in Venezuela as a country with good investment opportunities by facilitating two loans for the development of joint projects in the petroleum and petrochemical industries.

The loans, which total \$130 million, approximately 11 billion bolivares, were signed on 17 March by Japan's Export Import Bank at Venezuelan Petroleum Enterprise [Petroven].

Sakamoto said Venezuela has a good future and is viewed as a country with good economic prospects; therefore, he added, Japan will continue to invest in Venezuela.

The loan granted to Venezuela by Japan's Export Import Bank on 17 March was the second in two days. An \$80-million credit agreement was signed in the United States on 16 March for the production of ethanol.

[Begin Sakamoto recording] Japan's Export Import Bank has granted Venezuela more than \$130 million in two days. This means that Japan's Export Import Bank and the Japanese Government view Venezuela as a country with long-term investment opportunities. According to the U.S. OIL AND GAS magazine, only six countries in the world will be producing petroleum by the beginning of the 22nd century. In other words, 110 years from now, only six countries in the world will have petroleum, and Venezuela is number one on the list. [end recording]

The credit conditions consists of 6 percent interest over U.S. Treasury note interest rates, with a two-year grace period.

[Begin Petroven Director Gustavo Roosen recording] Credits were basically granted for petrochemical industries, where Japanese equipment and material are very competitive. Most of the inventory and materials required for the oil industry are purchased in the United States or Venezuela. Through this line of credit, we are seeking financial support to acquire material for the national petrochemical industries. [end recording]

Roosen said that as a result of the increase in oil prices, the country will receive \$11 billion, which will increase the Venezuelan Central Bank reserves.

Government 'Not Considering' Breaking Ties With Russia

PA2303044993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich said that the government is not considering breaking diplomatic relations with Russia due to its current political situation. He said the president is following the events closely and has studied Boris Yeltsin's speech. He called the situation very complex and difficult. He said the Venezuelan Government hopes the Russian people will

be able to overcome the problems that have surfaced since the disintegration of the former USSR.

[Begin Ochoa recording] This is a different situation to that in Peru or Haiti, which are Latin American countries and have a different perception and influence on the region, as far as the Venezuelan Government is concerned. In any event, the government does not yet have a position on this issue. [end recording]

Colombian Foreign Minister on Trade Investments

PA1803191893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Report by Melissa Soto]

[Text] During a visit to the Colombian Embassy in Venezuela, Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada said trade investments between both countries total \$1.1 billion, which means that the integration process is progressing positively.

Sanin mentioned aspects uniting the two countries, such as the integration process. She announced that a joint document being drafted with the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry will be ready within the next few days. The document outlines the advancements made so far on the subject of integration, which encompasses all sectors of society.

Sanin added that future plans include a Latin American Free Trade integration front. She mentioned the main points of the integration process with the United States.

[Begin Sanin recording] Both countries—I will refer to Colombia's position—have expressed satisfaction over the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by

Canada, Mexico, and the United States. All Latin American countries are currently signing subregional and regional free trade agreements with the idea of signing a Latin American Free Trade Agreement in the future. We are preparing for a hemispheric free trade zone. Our dream, which hopefully will become a reality, is to have a free trade zone from Alaska to Argentina by the year 2000, which would be the largest in the world. [end recording]

Sanin reiterated her invitation to the Venezuelan justice minister to meet with his Colombian counterpart to reach an agreement on repatriating prisoners from both countries.

Soldiers Injured in Explosion at Weapons Storage Center

PA2303143293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] We have just received a report that five soldiers doing maintenance work at a weapons storage center at Fort Huaicaipuro de Chavallave were injured on the afternoon of 22 March when a grenade exploded, according to a report released to VENPRES by General Nestor Lara, director of the Defense Ministry Secretariat.

The injured soldiers were identified as [word indistinct] Jose Luis Boscan and soldiers Alexis Rodriguez Colmenares, John Ferrosales, Ramon Antonio Farfan, and Jose Antonio Sanchez. They were taken to Fort Tiuna hospital in Caracas and are out of danger.

The Defense Ministry spokesman told VENPRES that although it is believed the explosion was caused by a mistake made by one of the soldiers, an investigation is under way.